

DUDLEY CHRONICLE



Thursday, March 20, 2014

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Tiny Miracle

Little Daisy-Mae may go home soon
See Page 5



Viking Life

IT man's other role is Erik the Educator
See Page 7



What's On

Entertainment and television listings
Starts Page 35



£100m bus deal just the ticket for region

NATIONAL Express West Midlands, the region's biggest bus operator, has today announced the signing of a £100m deal for 600 brand new state-of-the-art British built buses.

The agreement with Alexander Dennis will support 2,000 British jobs.

The announcement has been welcomed by Black Country MPs Ian Austin and Tom Watson who have called on other West Midlands companies to follow suit and buy British.

Technology

The 600 vehicles, a mix of double deck and smaller midi buses, will be built by Alexander Dennis Limited and will support more than 2,000 British jobs.

Every vehicle ordered will secure a British worker's job for a year.

The new vehicles will be equipped with the latest customer comfort technology, environmentally friendly low emissions engines and high definition CCTV.

Dudley North Ian Austin MP said: "This is an example of what a great British company should be doing."

"Supporting British manufacturing, securing jobs and signing deals that give British companies security is vital to our economic growth. I urge other companies to follow National Express West Midlands' lead."

Cyclist dies in accident

A CYCLIST has died after hitting a lamp post on a road near Stourbridge.

Police are appealing for witnesses to the crash on the A458 Bridgnorth Road in Enville, near to the junction of Blundries Lane at around 3.30pm on Saturday.

The cyclist was rushed to Russells Hall Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. He has been identified as Christopher Storer, aged 51, of Dix Avenue, Smalley, Derbyshire.

DEATH OF CARE BATTLE COUPLE

Report by Mark Andrews

"WE HAVE never been apart, we have always been together. I sit here looking at his chair every day, I miss Jim and he misses me."

These were the words of 90-year-old Joyce Smith in November as she pleaded with social services chiefs to allow her to move into the same residential care home as her 96-year-old husband Jim.

Her wish came true in January but she was taken ill, suffering a massive stroke just four days after she moved into the home and before the couple had actually been reunited as Mr Smith was ill. Now Dunkirk and D-Day veteran Mr Smith has also died at the Island

Court care home in Dudley, just 20 days after the death of his wife.

Mrs Smith, who was admitted to Russells Hall Hospital following a fall just before Christmas was finally allowed to move into Island Court at the end of January. Within four days, she suffered a massive stroke and died on February 10.

Devoted

Mrs Smith's daughter Diane Fellows, 63, said: "I'm convinced it was down to all that stress. If they had listened to us in the first place, I honestly believe she would still be here."

The couple had both been widowed when they met at Diane's wedding on March 17, 1969, and were married a year to the day.

Mrs Fellows, of Gordon Avenue, Lanesfield, said: "They were a devoted couple, and it broke my mother's heart when they were apart."

The couple's heartache began in August when Mr Smith was admitted to Russells Hall after being taken ill with a kidney complaint. When he was discharged after four weeks, social services ruled he was not fit to return to the flat he shared with his wife in Brunel Court, Wombourne, and he moved into Island Court in Bourne Street, Woodsetton, on September 4. As Mrs Smith's health was not judged serious enough to warrant full-time nursing care, she was told she could not join him.

While staff at Island Court said they were prepared to allow Mrs Smith to move in with her husband, Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust had said her condition did not justify the £391-a-week care cost.

Mr Smith's funeral at Gornal Wood Crematorium on Monday was on what would have been their 44th wedding anniversary.



Joyce Smith with a picture of her beloved husband Jim after he had been taken into the home

Jobs boost as Aldi will recruit at open day

A DISCOUNT supermarket chain is to recruit more than 70 people as it continues to expand to meet a growing demand in sales.

Aldi already announced it was creating 35 jobs ahead of the opening of its latest store in Birmingham Road in Wolverhampton and this week the firm said it was to employ 40 more people for eight of its existing stores across the Black Country.

Community

The German company, which has emerged nationally as a competitor to major supermarkets like Sainsbury's and Tesco, is holding a recruitment open day in Brierley Hill tomorrow (Friday).

Aldi area manager Leon Donald said: "Aldi is looking for further members of staff in the West Midlands due to an increase in sales for all stores across the region, and Aldi hopes to recruit primarily from the local community."

A spokesman added: "The positions will be for a number of stores across the West Midlands, including Brierley Hill, Dudley, Stourbridge, Netherton, Halesowen, Wollaston, Kidderminster and Bridgnorth, with 40 jobs available in total."

The recruitment event will be at the Copthorne Hotel in Merry Hill from 1pm to 5pm.

No to more theatre talks

BOSSSES at Dudley Council say time is up for campaigners to debate their plan to save Dudley Hippodrome.

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome have asked for fresh talks with the council on their business plan for the future of the theatre.

But regeneration chief Councillor Judy Foster has refused to re-enter talks.

An independent report gives a bleak outlook on the viability of the venue if saved from demolition.

Expert view — see page 6



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Tyre deal clears obstacle for new store

A BUDGET supermarket's plans for a new store in Kingswinford look set to progress now a deal has been done with tyre business on the site of the proposed supermarket.

Lidl had already secured permission to open a branch on the Duckworth Trading Estate, off Stallings Lane, in Kingswinford. But now it is asking to increase the size of the store by almost 20 per cent. Bosses

said that, if the move gets the go ahead, it would create around 40 new jobs.

In submitted plans the firm said: "We anticipate it will bring several million pounds worth of investment into the area, providing a new, attractive and modern development consisting of a Lidl food store, offering local employment."

Single-storey warehouses and

workshops at the trading estate will be demolished to make way for the new store.

The estate was occupied by a furniture store, a windows manufacturer and martial arts academy but they were relocated when planning permission for the supermarket was first granted last year.

Only Kingswinford Tyres Ltd remained on the estate but the firm's

boss Andrew Page said it was also relocating to Dawley Brook Road late next month following a financial settlement.

The move will result in a £100,000 investment for the garage, see its base expand by 30 per cent and workforce go from 10 to 14. Mr Page said: "I have decided to take the positives from the negatives and look forward to our move."

Protesters step up waste site campaign

HUNDREDS of people are backing a campaign to stop Brierley Hill becoming 'the waste capital of the West Midlands' by opposing a controversial waste plant.

A total of 961 residents had written against Clean Power Properties' bid to build the plant off Moor Lane in Brierley Hill ahead of this week's deadline for submissions for a public inquiry to decide on it.

Legal dispute over mosque to continue

A LEGAL dispute over a proposed mosque in Dudley is set to continue as Muslim leaders attempt to launch another appeal.

A recent ruling by the High Court found in favour of Dudley Council and it was expected a date would finally be set for the site in Hall Street, to be handed back to the authority.

But council leader Councillor David Sparks says formal notification has been received that Dudley Muslim Association has submitted a request to appeal the court's ruling.

He admitted there was no way of knowing when the legal tussle, ongoing since 2007, would now finish.

Councillor Sparks said the authority was waiting to hear the outcome of the request from the Court of Appeal.

Officials had hoped the battle was nearing an end after Deputy Judge David Halpern QC upheld an earlier court ruling striking out the association's defence to the council's action to reclaim the land.

Councillor Sparks said that the 'complex situation' has now become even more complicated, likening it to a 'legal labyrinth'.

They say they will continue to fight against the scheme right up to the hearing date with a variety of events being organised to drum up support and keep residents informed.

The campaigners - who go under the name Brierley Hill SNOW (Say No to Waste site) - hired a stall at the town's market to publicise their battle and gather more support.

Campaigner Tim Lees, aged 63, of Seagers Lane, said: "We've been extremely busy compiling residents' letters of objection ahead of the deadline to submit our evidence against the scheme. We have real concerns about the smell from the site, then the traffic it will create."

"We already have one rubbish pile, if we got this would it make us the waste capital of the West Midlands?"

Clean Power Properties first unveiled its plan for the plant two years ago. In October it was turned down by councillors because of the impact on residents. But the company claimed the plant would not give out odours and a traffic management system would be in place. The facility would process 195,000 tons of waste, including food, each year, generating enough electricity for up to 10,000 homes and creating 30 jobs.

The public inquiry on June 17 is scheduled to last four days and will be at Dudley Council House.

Chain reaction to lotto success



Dudley's Black Country Living Museum chainmaker Kevin Lowe with the iron 100

SPARKS have been flying at the Black Country Living Museum to celebrate the Midlands who have won money in the Lotto Raffle.

There are 100 people from the Black Country who have each scored £20,000 win in the Lotto Raffle, which was only launched six months ago. They have also helped good causes and attractions such as the museum who benefit from lottery funding.

The Black Country Living Museum has received more than £5 million Heritage Lottery Funding to date and wanted to do

something to say thank you for the help the lottery had given the venue.

Kevin Lowe, a chainmaker at the museum in Tipton Road crafted the number 100 out of iron using traditional blacksmithing techniques. He said: "It's took me all day to produce the final piece and it took a lot of time to get it just right."

Staff at the museum also accepted a plaque to record the Lotto success.

Laura Wakelin, spokesperson for the museum, said: "We are delighted to help celebrate a surge in the region's good fortune."

Mother's thanks to car crash rescuers

A MOTHER who was cut free from her car following a crash in Brierley Hill has thanked those who helped rescue her.

A Renault and Audi collided in Swan Lane at about 5.30pm on Saturday.

Kate Cooke, aged 34, of Stourbridge, was taken to Russells Hall Hospital after her Renault was involved in a collision with an Audi car in Swan Lane at around 5.30pm on Saturday.

Three young men in the Audi suffered minor facial injuries and were treated at the scene by paramedics.

Mrs Cooke, of Old Barn Road, had been on her way to the shops when the collision happened.

Firefighters removed the roof of her car with cutting equipment before strapping her to a spinal board.

Mother-of-one Mrs Cooke said: "My car spun. It was incredibly frightening."

"I would like to thank firefighters and there was a nice paramedic who sat with me and made me feel safe. There was also a nice lady who lived nearby and came out. She held my head very still. I feel very lucky. I'm badly bruised and on crutches but nothing is broken."

The road was closed for about two hours.

Group meet at hospital

WEST Midlands Lupus Group host a drop-in clinic at Russells Hall Hospital today (Thursday)

Guest Speakers are Dr Rav Sandhu, who is consultant rheumatologist and Lupus UK director Chris Maker in the ward A1 day-room in the rheumatology department between 2pm and 4pm.

Information will be available and representatives of West Midlands Lupus Group will attend. For further information call Yvonne Norton on 01902 498236 or visit the www.westmidlandslupus.co.uk website.

Village homes

PLANS to build two homes in a South Staffordshire village have been lodged.

The semi detached properties have been earmarked for land in The Acre, Kinver.

A planning application has been submitted to South Staffordshire Council.

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Sadness at death of zoo's rare lion

A LION which was part of a conservation breeding project at Dudley Zoo has died.

Staff at the zoo on Monday said they were devastated by the death of Asiatic lion Mwamba, aged 11.

Mwamba died despite veterinary treatment on Friday.

Gujarat

He was part of a rare and endangered lion subspecies known as *Panthera leo persicus*, native to India's Gujarat State.

He was brought to Dudley Zoo from Paignton last summer to breed with the zoo's female pair Asha and Kyra as part of a European conservation programme.

Zoo spokesman Jill Hitchman said: "He was a very popular lion, you can see that by the tributes we have already had in."

"We just wait now to find out the results of the post-mortem."

Mwamba was transferred to the zoo as part of the first lion breeding programme since the attraction's previous pair of lions died five years ago.

Mwamba's death is a major blow for a breeding programme considered of major importance.

70s film and TV nostalgia

TV and movie stars from the 1970s, including Bond girls Madeline Smith and Valerie Leon, will be signing autographs this weekend at the Memorabilia Show at Birmingham NEC.

Former children's TV presenters, actors from Doctor Who and current hit Game Of Thrones will also feature at the two-day celebration of cult TV and nostalgia.

There will be stalls selling memorabilia associated with film, TV and science fiction, plus appearances by beauties from the glamour movie world. See www.memorabilia.co.uk/birmingham for the latest information.

Trio in concert

A TRIO of singers The Three Tones are in concert at St Margaret's Church hall, in Hagley Road, Hasbury, on April 11 at 8pm.

Tickets are £10 which includes a drink, available from Hicks Hadley estate agents in Halesowen, or by calling 0121 550 3899.

Paedophile jailed for crimes in the 1990s



Abuser Trevor Chapman

A PAEDOPHILE who had accused his victims of concocting abuse claims to get their hands on his partner's inheritance has been jailed for 18 years.

Trevor Chapman has been put behind bars after a three week trial at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

The unemployed 52-year-old was arrested in January last year by detectives investigating a report of abuse in the 1990s.

One of the victims, now aged in his 30s, had told police he had been

repeatedly sexually assaulted by Chapman, who he had met when aged around 13.

The abuse took place at Chapman's flat in Halesowen and inquiries revealed other boys would go to drink and smoke at premises across Birmingham linked to Chapman.

Investigating officer Detective Constable Jen Rose said: "This was a challenging and complex case. The crimes happened two decades ago so we had to use all of our skills and the force's resources to find the men

who used to visit Chapman's homes when they were boys. Considerable time and effort had to go into getting the men to open up to us and reveal their secrets."

De Rose identified four victims but when the allegations were put to Chapman he claimed it was a conspiracy with the men wanting a share of his partner's recent inheritance.

During the trial the jury heard how Chapman would ply the boys, aged between 10 and 16 at the time,

with alcohol and cigarettes and even cash in exchange for sex.

Chapman, of Brook Crescent, Stourbridge, was found guilty of 28 offences and placed on the Sex Offenders' Register for life.

De Rose added: "This has been a heavy burden for the boys Chapman groomed and abused. Their tormentor's crimes have had a significant impact on their lives with some being left unable to form meaningful relationships because of the abuse they suffered."

Residents will have say on town centre's future

MULTI-MILLION pound proposals to transform Dudley into a tourism and shopping destination are now open to public comment.

Developers will be encouraged to build attractions including restaurants and major high street stores to revive Dudley town centre.

Council bosses on Monday kicked off a new consultation asking residents for views on what they would like to see arrive in the town.

Ideas to boost Dudley and again make it a thriving centre at the heart of the Black Country include creating more homes so more people live in the town centre. These will go into a planning document for the longer term strategy on the future of the town until 2026.

Addict is given jail sentence

POLICE found almost £1,000 worth of cocaine hidden in a yellow plastic egg, a judge heard.

A jury at Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that 22-year-old Adnan Ajram, of Careless Green, Lye, 'panicked' shortly before 1am on December 8, 2012, when a patrol car pulled up behind him in Martley Drive, Lye, and two officers got out.

Mr Tariq Shakoor, prosecuting, said "He was alone in the vehicle and was seen to throw something under his seat." Ajram had tried to hide the egg that had 23 wraps of cocaine valued at £920. Police found £645 cash and a bag of cannabis. A raid on his home found drug paraphernalia.

Ajram said he was an addict and the drugs had been left by his dealer. He denied possession with intent to supply but was convicted after a trial.

Miss Caroline Haughey, defending, said: "He has had time to reflect on his gross stupidity. He no longer uses or sells drugs."

Judge Martin Walsh jailed Ajram for three years.

Revamp

The plans are supposed to link with the council's vision to transform the Castle Hill area, which is under going a £10 million revamp.

Major construction projects have begun to improve links between Dudley Zoo, the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley canal tunnels.

Regeneration boss Councillor Judy Foster said: "It's clear to see that Dudley town centre has already started its regeneration journey but what we want to do now is identify, with the help of the public, where Dudley should be in the future."

The consultation will run for six weeks.

The council has identified the need for a new supermarket to boost footfall and has agreed to pay £2.5m for a 250-space multi-storey car park in Tower Street.

To take part go online to www.dudley.gov.uk or copies are available at Dudley Council Plus in Castle Street, Dudley Library and Dudley Museum.

Knockout proposal is real ring craft



Boxing clever for ring romantics in Brierley Hill — from left, couples Ricky and Nikki, and Adrian and Debbie

TWO boxers served up knockout marriage proposals when they got down on bended knee in the ring and popped the question to their girlfriends.

Adrian Firkins, 44, and 24-year-old Ricky Welsby took each other on in the lightweight match at Merry Hill's Copthorne hotel before proposing to their respective girlfriends in front of hundreds of fight fans.

After three rounds and their fight declared a draw, the announcer called Debbie Tyler, Adrian's girlfriend, and

Ricky's partner Nikki Vyse to the ring for 'photographs'. The boxers got down on one knee and presented the engagement rings, donated by Laurick Jewellery. Both ladies said yes.

Adrian, from Long Lane, Halesowen, who was fighting in his first bout, said: "I was more nervous about the proposal than the fight. After the match my heart was in my mouth, I was scared."

"I was worried she might say no but we have two beautiful children

together so I didn't think she would."

Debbie, 42, has been with him for 16 years, and said she had been beginning to think the moment might never happen. She added: "I was completely gobsmacked."

Ricky, of Codsall Road, Cradley Heath, said: "The proposal was all I could think about all day, not the fight" The pair have been together for two years, and Nikki, 23, said: "I had never even thought anything like that would happen."

NEWS in brief

Kylie tickets go on sale this week

AUSSIE pop superstar Kylie Minogue is bringing her Kiss Me Once Tour to Birmingham this autumn.

Tickets go on sale tomorrow (Friday) for the concert at the NIA on October 7, her only West Midlands date.

Kylie, whose new album Kiss Me Once was released this week, is currently starring as one of the celebrity judges on BBC TV talent show The Voice. Tickets will be available from www.livenation.co.uk/artists/kylie-tickets from 9am.

Spring into action on nature walk

VISITORS will have a spring in their step at a walk taking in two nature reserves in Halesowen.

Nature warden Helen Edwards will lead a group on a free-to-join walk of two miles around The Leasowes and Coombswood Nature Reserve, finding out about history, geology and wildlife at the sites.

The walk starts at 9.45am on Saturday from the wardens' base at The Leasowes, off Mucklow Hill. Booking is essential, call (01384) 514642.

Catholics digging deep for charity

GENEROUS church-goers have dug deep into their pockets to help raise money for starving people.

Members of Catholic churches in Dudley donated cash for aid agency Cafod's Dig Deep campaign over the weekend. Last year they raised £4,097.

Cafod manager for Dudley, Helen Moseley, said "Through Dig Deep people from Dudley are making a difference."

Movie stars join Peaky Blinders

FILM stars Noah Taylor and Charlotte Riley are joining the cast of Peaky Blinders, the hit 1920s gangland TV drama set in Birmingham and filmed at the Black Country Living Museum. Taylor, from Game Of Thrones, will play a rival gang boss and Riley, soon to be seen with Tom Cruise in Edge Of Tomorrow, plays an aristocrat.

Tudor crimes

HISTORIAN Margaret Bradley will give a free illustrated talk on cases that appeared before the manor court at Cradley 450 years ago, on Thursday, March 27, at Overend Methodist Mission from 7.30pm.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



AFTER this week's suggestion of a super-city to be called Greater Birmingham, there was outrage further west and even a demand for it to be called Greater Black Country. The only fair way forward is to find the exact centre of the proposed city and take that as the name. After much measuring on the map I have it. Greater Pleck.

SHERYL Sandberg, the Facebook chief executive and Anna Maria Chavez, the head of American Girl Scouts, are heading a campaign to ban the word "bossy" on the grounds that being called bossy undermines the confidence of girls. What a pair of bossyboots.

IN LIFE, unspeakable. In death, unimpeachable. What a shame some of the nice things being said about Bob Crow since his sudden death were not said before. Two things make me like him. Firstly, I always admire people who speak up for others. Secondly, I never use the Tube.

ED Miliband says a Labour government would not hold a referendum on membership of the EU unless Britain is asked to transfer more powers to Brussels. Imagine the fun the lawyers could have defining "powers," "asked," "transfer" and "to Brussels." What Miliband really means is that the British people will never be allowed to pull out. Which, to be fair, is much the same as David Cameron means. The net result of Cameron and Miliband's EU dithering will be a landslide for UKip in the EU elections in May. It's that opportunity we humble voters get every five years to thumb our noses at the big political parties with that wonderful line from Romeo and Juliet: a plague on both your houses.

HOW could the crisis-hit Co-Op Bank, having discovered a £1.5 billion black hole in its accounts, even consider awarding its new (and now resigned) boss a £3.6 million package? Simple. All it requires is an understanding of bankonomics, a black art which should not be confused with economics or anything resembling sound budgeting. Bankonomics dictates that when a bank makes a huge profit it clearly has to reward its senior staff, so it's massive bonuses all round. Bankonomics also dictates that when a bank makes a huge loss, it clearly has to attract better staff. So it's massive bonuses all round.

HAROLD Macmillan was once asked by a journalist what he most feared in politics and replied: "Events, dear boy, events." Events certainly overtook Evan Davis's programmes, *Mind the Gap* (BBC2), examining the gulf between London and the rest of Britain. No study of London is complete without mentioning the curious fact that the massive influx of the global super-rich now influences UK foreign policy. How could Britain seriously intervene in Vladimir Putin's Crimean adventure when Vlad's pals might respond by taking themselves and their billions out of London, precipitating the biggest property crash in history? Dollars and roubles, dear boy. Dollars and roubles.

I CAN understand some New Zealanders wanting to change their national flag on the grounds that it is too much like the Australian flag and, with its Union Jack, has echoes of colonialism. I can understand, too, the desire to replace it with the fern leaf, the proud symbol of New Zealand. But a fern leaf on a black background? Black is the colour of mourning and black flags are associated with pirates and Muslim extremists. The black flag with a fern leaf would be perfect for the Auckland branch of al Qaeda.

AT a trade fair in Hanover, David Cameron looks forward to a new industrial revolution when billions of everyday objects such as fridges will be able to "talk to each other" over the internet. That's right, Prime Minister. And at night the toys all come to life and dance around the nursery. Perhaps you've been working a bit too hard.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Colleges compete for HS2 business

NINE Midland colleges are bidding to run a new skills academy to train engineers to work on HS2, it has emerged.

The consortium want the new college, the first to be built for 20 years, to be sited alongside a planned HS2 maintenance depot on the former LGV plant in Washwood Heath, Birmingham.

It comes after The Chronicle's

sister newspaper the Express & Star revealed civic leaders in Staffordshire are calling for the college to be based in Stafford at the site due to be vacated by Staffordshire University.

Their bid has been backed by high speed train specialists Alstom, who are based in the county town.

The rival bid for Birmingham comprises South Staffordshire Col-

lege, Kidderminster College, Birmingham Metropolitan College, University College, Birmingham South and City College, Birmingham Bournville College, Solihull College, North East Worcestershire College, Burton and South Derbyshire College, and North East Worcestershire College.

Ministers announced in January plans for a dedicated further ed-

ucation college for the high-speed railway.

Other bids to be the location for the new college are expected to come from Manchester, Crewe, and Derby.

Meanwhile, bosses at the Woodland Trust have stepped up their campaign to protect ancient woodlands affected by the proposed route.

9,000 in chase for just 600 JLR jobs

MORE than 9,000 people have applied for just 600 manufacturing jobs at Jaguar Land Rover's new engine factory on the border of South Staffordshire and Wolverhampton.

Skilled workers from across the UK are thought to be vying for a chance to work at the new £500 million plant, which will start producing engines early next year for the new XE saloon.

Castle

Speaking last week, the factory's operations director, Trevor Leeks, told a Black Country meeting of the Institute of Directors at Dudley Castle, that the site would hit its target of employing nearly 1,500 people "in the next four to five years".

By that stage it would be producing an engine every 36 seconds, he revealed.

The company started recruiting for 600 manufacturing workers in January.

Mr Leek said: "Over 9,000 people have applied so far".

Currently around 200 staff are working at the site, installing new production line equipment with the aim of producing the first prototype engines in Wolverhampton in the spring.

Market or car boot scheme

A NEW car boot sale could soon be operating on Sundays in Oldbury after a planning application was lodged.

Sandwell Council is hoping to open up its Dudley Road car park on Sundays for a car boot sale or market.

The urban regeneration team at the local authority has submitted an application to its own planning department to seek approval for the plans.

The application states the site would be turned back into a car park, which has space for 561 vehicles, in time for Monday mornings.

Heritage grant

A £100,000 grant from the JP Getty Foundation has been received by Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust towards plans to create a visitor attraction. It will go towards match-funding money to buy the castle near Kidderminster from the Church Commissioners.

£1m Merry Hill roads plan gets green light

A £1.2 MILLION scheme to improve pedestrian and bus routes around Merry Hill has been unanimously backed by planners.

A toucan crossing will be installed along Pedmore Road and the carriageway widened to improve safety for pedestrians.

Studies carried out by Dudley Council showed a total of 184 people crossed the road over a 12-hour period.

Officials said there would be delays caused by the installation of the crossing but they would work to minimise this.

Under the plans the road will be widened to allow the creation of a central reservation. A landscaped area would be cut back to make way for the new development.

Priority

A separate scheme for changes to the junction of The Boulevard and Mill Street to provide priority to buses have also been given a green light.

As part of the plan a segregated bus lane will be created along the route giving priority for outbound buses leaving the shopping centre.

A signalised bus gate will also be installed. This will detect oncoming buses and allow them through without being held up by lights. This scheme will be carried out by Centro rather than the council and the transport authority has secured funding for the work through the Better Bus Area Fund.

Members of Dudley Council's development control committee have now approved both schemes.

Committee chairman Councillor Qadar Zada said: "Councillors agreed both of these plans unanimously and they will be of enormous benefit to the area."

"There are two main priorities - the safety of pedestrians and also increasing the efficiency of public transport."

"In terms of safety, we are not saying there is an issue along this route but we want to do what we can to improve things where we can."

"Promoting public transport is also a key issue and the creation of this new bus lane and gate will increase the efficiency of services and also improve traffic flow around the centre."

The crossing on the Pedmore Road is being built near where 53-year-old taxman Chris Clarke was fatally knocked down as he walked to work at The Waterfront in April last year.

Islamic centre approved

AN empty pub will be turned into an Islamic education centre after planners approved the scheme saying it would 'be of major benefit' to the community.

Plans were put in to Dudley Council to change the use of the Old Bell pub, in Chapel Street, Lye. They were made on behalf of a charitable trust called the Islamic Community and Education Centre.

The council received 31 letters of support for the redevelopment as well as a petition containing 372 signatures in favour, along with a supporting letter from Chapel Street Medical Centre.

Jack is ale and hearty at 106



Home delivery by John Hurst for 106-year-old Jack Jones at his Stourbridge care home

HIS smile was from ear to ear as Jack Jones's 106th birthday celebrations got even better when he was handed a case of his favourite beer.

Jack was hand-delivered the bottles of Bank's Bitter and a half pint glass from Banks's after brand manager Jordan Coyle read in The Chronicle's sister newspaper the Express & Star how he still enjoyed the tipple.

On marking his landmark birthday two weeks ago, Jack attended his local, the

Greyhound in Stourbridge, to toast the milestone with family and friends whilst supping a half-pint of his favourite beer.

Then drayman John Hurst pulled up his delivery truck outside Tudor Manor Care Home, in Brook Street, to give the case of beer to Jack and a letter congratulating him on his birthday.

Jack, a former lorry driver said: "I'm so, so happy to receive this, my birthday feels like it has gone on and on. I want to thank the brewery with all my heart."

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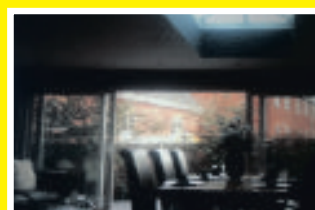
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One year in prison for thefts of purses

A 'PROFESSIONAL pick pocket' has got a year in jail for stealing three purses.

Lydia Turner, of John Street, Rowley Regis, stole the purses from handbags between February and July at the George Wallace pub in Victoria Street and the Lady Wulfrun in Lichfield Street in Wolverhampton.

Recorder Nicholas Syfret sentenced her to four months in prison for each offence, to be served consecutively.

Mr Simon Phillips, prosecuting, said Turner, aged 35, had stolen a purse from a bag on February 12 last year. He said: "She returned almost a month later on March 8, where she stole a purse from a handbag. On July 3, she was caught on CCTV sitting near the victim in Lady Wulfrun where she used her to feet to grab the handbag."

Mr Phillips told Wolverhampton Crown Court that she was arrested on July 31 after photos were published in the Express & Star. The mother-of-one had a long history of dishonesty.

Mrs Geraldine Toal, for Turner, said she stole to fund her drug habit, adding: "She realises now the effect that her crimes have on victims."

Turner was banned from the two pubs for two years.

Machine on cutting edge

THOMPSON, the Halesowen-based factory equipment manufacturer, is to supply a linear friction welding machine to a top research organisation for developing new production processes.

The machine will be used at Coventry's Manufacturing Technology Centre to look into ways of joining multi-metal components for the aerospace, medical and power generation industries.

The machine will have a 130 ton forge load capability, designed to weld parts up to 10,000mm sq. also in a variety of materials.

Drivers needed

A SERVICE providing lifts for people needing help to get to medical and dental appointments is appealing for more volunteer drivers. Anyone who would help Hagley Helpline should call 01562 886696 10am to noon any week day.

Police target shops selling cannabis gear

ONE of the lead investigators behind a landmark conviction of 11 specialist sellers who helped supply equipment to cannabis growers has said he hopes the case will spark a debate over legislation.

They had been selling the hydroponics equipment needed to produce the class B drug, and were convicted following an extensive undercover police operation.

Acting Detective Chief Inspector Tom Chisholm, said there is currently nothing in law to regulate this kind of hardware.

He said: "There is no legislation at the moment that prevents anyone selling hy-

droponics equipment. We wanted to test a hypothesis that they were going beyond just selling the equipment, and in the cases of the ones we convicted they were.

Legislation

"I'm hoping having this sort of debate might kick start people into looking into legislation around this."

Stores across the Black Country and Birmingham were targeted by detectives in February last year following a five-month undercover operation.

Searches were carried out at business

and home addresses of those linked to hydroponic suppliers with £45,000 in cash seized as well as between two to three kilos of cannabis worth in the region of £20,000, and drug paraphernalia

The 11 were sentenced last week at Birmingham Crown Court after having pleading guilty to assisting others in cannabis production at a previous hearing.

Self-employed Neville Henry, aged 54 of Marshall Street, Smethwick, and who owns Extra Grow Hydroponics at Wednesbury Trading Estate, was handed six months in prison.

Shopkeeper Simeon Keane, 31 of Severn Acres Road, Halesowen, owner of Grow-patch Ltd, High Street, Blackheath, was sentenced to 17 weeks suspended for 18 months. Packer Paul Williams, 28, of Bris-tall Hall Road, Oldbury, employed at Grow World, Bristol Road South, Northfield, was sentenced to 18 weeks in prison.

Lorraine Mardenborough, 52, of Saracen Drive, Sutton Coldfield, co-owner of Red Eye Jungle Shop in Walsall, was given a six month sentence suspended for 18 months. Seven others are from Birmingham or in-volved with shops in the city.

Tiny miracle Daisy-Mae could be going home soon

DAISY-MAE Little has captured the hearts of tens of thousands of people after she came into the world three-and-a-half months early, weighing a tiny 1lb and 13 oz.

She has spent more than 13 weeks in hospital, where her proud parents Wayne and Jennifer Little say she is now going from strength to strength. Now weighing over 4lbs, the couple hope it will be just a matter of weeks before they can bring their precious little girl back to their home in Pensnett.

Railway is seeking new generation

THE Severn Valley Railway is looking to recruit more volunteers with young people needed to learn skills and take on the future running of the attraction.

The heritage line will be holding a volunteer job fair next month coinciding with its members and shareholders weekend on April 12 and 13. Officials will be holding the fair on the Saturday between 10am and 4pm, at Kidderminster station.

Representatives from the railway, which runs from Kidderminster to Bridgnorth via Bewdley, will be on hand to talk to people about the tasks where volunteer help is needed and about training.

Fair organiser Diane Malyon said: "There are plenty of jobs that are sure to appeal to people from any background. We are hoping to see some younger faces at the volunteer jobs fair as it's important that the skills vital for the future running of the railway are passed down to the younger generation.

For more information visit www.svr.co.uk or call 01527 757900.



Proud father firefighter Wayne Little cradles daughter Daisy-Mae and has charted her progress on Facebook

NHS 111 service is back on track

A NON-EMERGENCY helpline aimed at reducing pressure on hospitals and GPs has been given a clean bill of health four months after it was rescued by West Midlands Ambulance Service.

Bosses say they now hope to further broaden the reach of the NHS 111 service by potentially doubling the 64,000 calls it receives each month and taking on new staff at its region headquarters in Brierley Hill.

Earlier this month the service received its 250,000th call since its

transfer to West Midlands Ambulance Service from NHS Direct, which pulled out in November due to severe financial problems.

Now, following a take-over period, adverts are to go out in local media and in GP practices as a push is started to encourage even more people to use the non-emergency service, which covers Shropshire, Black Country and Worcestershire.

Director Daren Fradgley said: "We now take 2,000 calls on a weekday, 4,000 calls on a weekend day. No-one

knows exactly how much this will increase over the coming months but some of the early modelling suggests it could go up by 50 to 100 per cent.

"As the growth continues, so will the employment of staff. We forecast we have got enough for next three months. What happens next will depend on how many more calls we receive."

The 111 team is based at a control centre at the Waterfront. About 170 health advisors handle calls with assistance from up to 60 clinicians.

NEWS in brief

Workers in move to offices at park

AROUND 250 council workers will move to re-vamped offices in Stour-bridge's Mary Stevens Park at the end of the month as part of a wider scheme to save cash and make better use of space.

Twelve sites are being sold off under by Dudley Council under plans to raise £3.6 million.

Work is under way on a £121,000 project at the park for staff from Halesowen District Office and Church Street Education Centre, Pensnett.

Worldwide beer flavour at festival

FOUR Wetherspoons pubs in the Dudley area will each be serving ten beers from around the world alongside British beers during a 17-day festival.

The beers will be on offer at The Full Moon in High Street and The Abraham Darby at the Merry Hill centre, as well as The Clifton in Sedgley and The Waterfront Inn, Level Street, Brierley Hill. They have been sourced from as far as South Africa and New Zealand. The festival is on March 28 to April 13.

Charity's £2m pet hospital scheme

PLANS for a £2 million animal hospital in Oldbury have been lodged by pet charity PDSA. It follows an increase in demand for services at its current base in Hagley Road, Quinton.

The new site on the Wolverhampton Road will be known as the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals Centre for North-West Birmingham and Sandwell and will feature the latest equipment and techniques.

Police probing car arson attack

A CAR was deliberately set on fire on a street in Stour-bridge.

Firefighters were called to the junction of Bedcote Place and Stepping Stones at around 4am on Thursday, where the vehicle, a white Rover Metro, was gutted by the blaze.

Firefighters were at the scene for an hour. Police are investigating the fire.

Dead man's family

THE coroner's office seek the family of a 72-year-old man who died in Dudley. Arthur Westwood, of Breton Close, died on March 8 at Russells Hall Hospital. Call Elaine Huckfield on 0845 352 7490.

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IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

THEY say one of the surest signs of getting older is when the policemen start looking younger. But what about when the police start looking smaller. Or made out of vinyl?

Over the last few months they seem to have been spreading like wildfire. PCSOs, community beat bobbies, it seems no shop is complete now without a self-adhesive law enforcer in the window.

We've all heard the unkind comments about 'plastic policemen', but really is taking it too far.

□□□□

THE other week, while using a self-scanning till at a local branch of Tesco, a member of staff was required to verify that I was over the age of 18 while purchasing a six-pack of beer.

And what, you might ask, is wrong with that? Well the beer in question was alcohol-free. Why, even the old Top Deck shandy cans used to have a trace of alcohol in them, and I don't recall children being stopped from buying them. Even stranger is the warning on Beck's Blue, another low alcohol brew. "Please drink responsibly" it says on the label, which gives the alcohol content as being 0.05 per cent. And quite right too. Do not even consider getting driving a car after 200 bottles.

□□□□

NOEL Edmonds, unveiling his proposal to privatise the BBC, says he no longer buys a television licence because there is nothing on the normal terrestrial services he wants to watch. "I don't watch except on catch-up," he says. And quite right too. So how does he feel about all those years he was forcing Mr Blobby and Telly Addicts on us?

□□□□

FIREFIGHTERS were this week called to deal with a fire at a suspected cannabis factory in Tettenhall, emitting huge plumes of smoke into the atmosphere. A man was arrested, but neighbours are said to be relaxed about the matter. Very relaxed indeed.

□□□□

JUST when you think you have heard everything, Aaron Parfitt, 14, has been suspended from his school in Blackpool for organising a walk-out because he felt he was not getting enough homework. He complained he was passed from pillar to post when he tried to raise concerns about the quality of his teaching with Blackpool Council and Ofsted. He managed to persuade 100 of his peers to join him on his protest. I know teenagers will do anything for a day off school, but demanding more homework? The news comes a week after fellow Blackpool resident Gemma Worrall hit the headlines because she thought 'barocco barn' was Britain's head of state. They must have some really good schools up there.



The Hippodrome building's crumbling facade



Inside the former top entertainment venue



The Dudley Hippodrome back in its heyday

Theatre just not viable, says expert

ANDREW TURTON reports on findings that call into question the reasoning for saving Dudley Hippodrome

IT is a report which delves into questions at the heart of a campaign to save the Dudley Hippodrome from being bulldozed into oblivion.

Experts are set the task to analyse the future for the theatre and whether hope to reopen the Hippodrome can become a reality.

Dudley Council spent £2,750 commissioning consultants to appraise a business plan compiled by campaigners to run the landmark theatre.

Now we can reveal the contents of that report after being granted access through a Freedom of Information request.

Herefordshire-based consultants Art-service were commissioned last year to look at the future of the building which celebrated its 75th anniversary last year.

Now the stark prediction dealt by consultant Alun Bond reveals concerns for the future.

Lifestyle

"The Hippodrome is a major theatre and has undoubtedly played an important and memorable role in the cultural life of Dudley and its people," he said. "In its heyday, would have been a major resource to the borough."

"Unfortunately, due to the radical changes in lifestyle and leisure consumption that have taken place, its isolated location, the loss of its technical facilities, and the changes that have occurred in the regional market for theatre and in national touring product availability, mean that it is no longer positioned to be able to compete effectively in the theatre market. It is very difficult to see



Friends of Dudley Hippodrome Chairman Gordon Downing with supporters

therefore how it might be restored to a venue capable of viable and sustainable operation."

One crucial issue he identified was competition from other Midland theatres and potential for barring clauses stopping certain shows from appearing at the nearby Dudley Hippodrome. Such clauses can prevent a touring company or performer playing two theatres within a certain distance and time period of each other.

He said this potentially could include theatres like Wolverhampton's Grand

Theatre, Birmingham Hippodrome and The New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham.

Campaigners had secured the interest of Bill Kenwright, a major producer of touring musicals, at bringing shows to the Hippodrome. However Mr Bond, in his report said it would be unlikely to secure productions from ATG, also known as the Ambassador Theatre Group, which is also one of the UK's leading theatre operators, as this would compete with the New Alexandra, which it operates.

He did add that the Hippodrome could play a role as a live music venue and may attract some visiting shows due to its large capacity. He also said the venue could conflict with the programme of shows already at borough venues such as Dudley Town Hall.

Yet friends group chairman Gordon Downing said this would not be a problem.

"Personally I'm not looking at staging one-off nights," Mr Downing said. "I would prefer shows to come in Tuesday to Saturday."

"The fact that they say there is not enough room on the circuit, I can't imagine that one extra theatre would make much difference to them at all. They would only be working for one week extra and getting extra profit from that."

Mr Bond suggests a capital investment of between £5m and £10m would be needed along with a 'significant' annual council subsidy of at least £300,000 to £400,000 a year.

Many theatres are owned by local authorities but are now often managed by trusts or separate commercial operators, the report says.

Mr Bond says the 'danger' is the friends group would be unable to attract the funding required should it be retained and run on a voluntary basis.

But Mr Downing questioned the need for financial involvement by the council and says the friends group have never asked for support in annual subsidies.

"We never say it would be run by volunteers," he said. "Volunteering would mainly just be able help clearing it initially."

"Depending on the situation we would be looking to employ 15 to 16 full time staff."

Mr Downing added: "We have not asked for any money at all from the council but why shouldn't we have its co-operation at least. We want the council just to come back to the table and listen to us and see our vision."

THROUGH THE YEARS

1984

FIFTY patients, many attached to life support machines, were evacuated from Wolverhampton's Royal Hospital as a blazing roof threatened to engulf the entire top floor.

A HIGH Court judge ordered the miners' union to call off flying pickets from travelling to pits which continued to operate during the strike. Mr Justice Nolan granted the National Coal Board an injunction under the controversial Employment Act

GERRY Adams, the Sinn Féin MP for West Belfast, was gunned down in his car during a lunch break from a court case he was involved in. He was taken to Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast after being shot in the city.

1994

CHART toppers Chaka Demus and Pliers appeared in Wolverhampton for the first time, but didn't get quite the reaction they had been hoping for. Angry fans threatened to walk out as they became tired of waiting for the band. The concert started at 7.30pm, but the group did not take to the stage until 10pm.

KIDNEY patients from Wolverhampton were flying to India for transplants because of a shortage of organs in Britain. Five people from the town had paid around £2,500 for the operations in Bombay clinics. The donors, from India's poorer classes, were risking their lives for as little as £200, it was claimed.

2004

A FRUIT and veg seller who fought a three-year battle for the right to sell in pounds and ounces died from a suspected heart attack at the age of 39. Steven Thoburn, from Sunderland, had been prosecuted for breaching the Weights and Measures Act by selling bananas by the pound. His Imperial scales were confiscated and he was given a six-month conditional discharge in 2001.

BUS lay-bys were being removed from a busy main road, sparking concerns the move would lead to an increase in congestion. The lay-bys were being blocked up as part of a £1.7m Red Route scheme along Stafford Road in Wolverhampton. Transport chiefs claimed that it would be safer for buses to stop on the main carriageway rather than pulling into lay-bys.

ASTON Villa ruthlessly despatched their Premiership neighbours Wolves with a 4-0 win. There was a brief chance for Wolves to get back into the game on the stroke of half-time but Thomas Sorensen saved a penalty from Vio Ganea.

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

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area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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Raid accused is found dead

A MAN was found hanging in prison a month after he allegedly brandished a fake handgun during a raid on a shop.

Paul Coley, 44, was overpowered by staff at the Tesco Express in Upper Gornal.

Mr Coley was stopped by the store's security guard and deputy manager with four steaks and 12 chocolate bars in his coat on November 29 at 8.20pm. Mr Coley, of Vicarage Road, All Saints, Wolverhampton, was arrested by police and later charged with theft and possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear and violence.

He appeared at Dudley Magistrates' Court on November 2 and was remanded in custody but on New Year's Eve he was found hanging in his prison cell at HMP Hewell in Redditch. An inquest is to be heard by the Worcestershire coroner.

Ex-postman is jailed after hoarding and burning parcels

A POSTMAN who hoarded dozens of parcels he should have delivered — and set some of them alight — has been jailed for three months.

Damien Turner had worked as a postman at Royal Mail's Dudley delivery office for almost three years before being suspended, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Mr John Dove, prosecuting for Royal Mail, said the crime came to light when 28 parcels were found in the wardrobe of a property he had rented in Foxdale Drive, Brierley Hill.

The manager of a letting agency, who made

the discovery after Turner was forced to leave due to rent arrears, contacted Royal Mail in October and an investigation was launched.

The parcels had been dated between August 28, 2011, and March 3, 2012 and had been due for delivery in the DY2 and DY3 areas.

Mr Dove told the court that the 23-year-old's current address in Broad Street, Pensnett, was searched and burnt remains of four packets were found in an oil drum in the garden.

Turner was suspended in November.

Turner had said that he had been going through a break-up with his girlfriend, had for-

gotten to deliver the parcels and didn't know what to do with them. Turner admitted delaying postal packets and another charge of arson.

Miss Geraldine Toal, mitigating, said said: "He began to associate with those who were undesirable and began to take drugs."

Jailing Turner for three months, Judge Michael Dudley told him: "The Royal Mail has to expect absolute trust from anyone involved in delivering mail."

Turner was handed a three-month jail term for arson and a one-month prison sentence, running concurrently, for delaying postal packets.

Offices only bid at Waterfront

DEVELOPERS wanting to convert offices into apartments in a business district could face a tougher task winning planning approval from Dudley Council.

Regeneration bosses are keen to prevent landlords undermining a proposal to revive The Waterfront, opposite Merry Hill shopping centre, as a business area.

Councillors have approved a five-year Dudley Business Investment Zone to provide new and expanding firms at the site a two-year break in business rates. The council wants to fill empty office space.

Councillor Judy Foster, cabinet member for regeneration, has proposed an Article 4 Direction which would restrict permitted development rights and provide the council with greater control.

Saga of Erik the educator



Erik Eriksson aka David Wilcox from Wall Heath will bring the Vikings to life

WHEN he's not at a keyboard keeping Dudley Council's websites running, mild-mannered IT man David Wilcox is wielding a sword and wearing a helmet as one of the country's best-known Viking educators.

The 50-year-old from Albion Street, Wall Heath, has been a professional Viking for more than 20 years.

Known by his Nordic name Erik Eriksson, he puts on more than 100 shows a year drawing on a collection of more than 1,000 artefacts he has either made or bought.

But his latest job is his most prestigious yet, as he puts on shows for hundreds of children visiting the British Museum's blockbuster Viking exhibition in London.

He said: "I can't wait to work on this latest exhibition. It brings together a lot of recent findings about Viking life and puts to bed a lot of myths about their culture."

"I feel really honoured to be a part of it."

On Saturday and again on April 26 the re-enactor will put on a show about the weapons used by the Vikings and tell traditional Nordic folk tales.

His company, Longship Trading, was founded by his brother, Ivor Wilcox more than two decades ago.

"When we were growing up both me and my brother loved history and we were always going round different historical sites and museums. Eventually our passion for it became a business," David explained.

In 2008 his brother died from cancer aged just 47. "Since my brother passed away I have become the main person for teaching in the schools," said David. "My brother continued performing right up until he died. Making the children happy is what kept him alive those last few months."

Jolly youth club memories at reunion

MEMBERS of a 'jolly' youth club founded nearly 90 years ago are getting ready for a big reunion. More than 140 former members are expected at the reunion of the Bloomfield Methodist Youth Club in Tipton on Saturday.

It was formed by The Rev Ran Holton as 'The Jolly Club', with separate boys' and girls' sections in 1925 and met at the Methodist church in Bloomfield Road, Tipton.

It had various names until, in 1978, the church and hall were demolished and members transferred to Tipton Green Methodist Church. The club finally closed in 1986.

Roger Hill, of Mansion Close, Dudley, was the boys' leader from 1965 until 1981 and has produced a DVD showing film of the club's events. Mr Hill said: "We'll be showing the film at our reunion and we're looking forward to a great night with people from Spain and the USA coming over."

Any former member who would like to attend the reunion should contact Patrick Hoban 07876 755568.

Fire death inquest

AN INQUEST has opened into the death of a mechanic who died in a house fire in Dudley.

The body of Brian Franklin, aged 42, was found in a bedroom in his house in Wood Street, Holly Hall, on February 8.

Senior Coroner Robin Balmain told the inquest at Walsall Manor Hospital on Thursday that the provisional cause of death was severe burns.

He adjourned proceedings for further investigations to take place.

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Speaker in talk on Kays catalogue

WOLLASTON E TWG

CHAIRMAN Jean Latham welcomed 50 members and two visitors to the February meeting and read out the list of apologies.

The secretary then presented the minutes of the last meeting which were duly passed and signed. The treasurer continued with a favourable account of the finances.

Sub-section leaders reported that their respective groups, namely floral art, arts and crafts, tea and talents and rambles, were all well attended. Bowling resumes at the beginning of April.

A visit to Hagley Hall at 2.30pm on Monday June 2 has been arranged. Numbers for this visit are limited. The cost is £10 which includes light refreshments.

The annual dinner has been booked for Tuesday May 6 at Stone Manor, near Kidderminster, commencing from 7.30pm. The cost is £20.

There will be a St George's Day event organised by the federation at Wollaston Village Hall on 23rd April.

The speaker for the evening was Mr Bernard Mills, who with the aid of slides, gave an insight into the Kays of Worcester catalogue.

The company, which has always operated in the Worcester area, has been in existence for more than 200 years.

Raffle prizes for the evening went to Gwyneth Rudge and Enid Lambert.

Excellent meal is dished up at AGM



Back, row, from left, speaker secretary Pauline Handley, treasurer Sandra Chappell, registrar Jan Burrows. Front, raffle Brenda Adkin, outings Ann Rogers and chairman Mary Jones

DUDLEY LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

ine Handley explained the new programme which included talks on Witley Court, canal art, My Life My Passion, the Old Hall Story, Waterboring in the Grenadines, flower arranging and Nova chocolates.

Ann Rogers was arranging a visit to Dudley Zoo including a cream tea and a coach outing to Gloucester Docks.

Meetings are held on the second Friday each month at 12.30pm. Call the secretary on 01902 372984 for more details.

Record number at last meeting

CLENT GARDEN CLUB

THE February meeting was held with a record attendance of 61 members and three visitors.

Rob and Diane Cole entertained with amusing slides based on the misuse of gardening and products and also told many anecdotes associated with gardening, including a Scottish village

called 'Dull', which is aptly twinned with the town of 'Boring' in America.

Bookings will be taken in the very near future for our two evening visits, the first on June 6 to The Barton at Martley and the second one on June 24 to Hill Close

Gardens at Warwick. At the next meeting at 7.45pm on March 28 at Clent Parish Hall, the speaker will be Kim Hurst on "The True Cottage Garden"

For anyone interested in joining or visiting, log onto clentgardenclub.wordpress.com/ or call chairman Pat Orme on 01384 394451.

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We're bigger and better than Brum

HERE we go again – somebody namely Andy Street, the managing director of John Lewis wants the people of the Black Country to change into Brummies, so that it would make Birmingham more competitive and become part of Greater Birmingham.

He says Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall will do! He said we could become like Greater Manchester. He also stresses that we can

keep our own councils also we would be second to nobody. What a laugh!

You may also notice it has been sanctioned by the big firms like Jaguar Land Rover and director Mike Wright because they are a global business and very shortly a John Lewis will be built in Birmingham. So they need Birmingham to look good and take parts of the Black Country as their slaves!

Birmingham have tried all this before. Do they realise that many people past and present have made the Black Country what it is today – world famous. We get bigger and better and

let's face it we do have a city in the Black Country, it's called Wolverhampton.

So we don't need Birmingham, we don't want to upset the people of Birmingham. We wish them all the luck in the world, but the Black Country has expanded so much in recent years we are now bigger and better than Birmingham. And I'm sure we have plans of our own, but one thing is certain we will never become Brummies. We ain't for sale.

J WARDLE
Stourbridge

Common sense on the theatre

I READ in the Dudley Chronicle dated March 6 that Ken Dodd is adding support to the Dudley Hippodrome campaign that is hoping to restore the theatre.

As an opponent to this idea I wonder how often Mr Dodd drives into town past Castle Hill Island and sees this monstrosity? Certainly not as frequently as most of us.

The amount of money needed to fund this must be millions of pounds and I hope that the council is not thinking of using tax payers' money to fund this, especially as the famous 'stage' is no longer there.

It is time for common sense to be applied to this issue.

J ABBISS
Milking Bank
Dudley

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

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expressandstar.co.uk

Parking charges deter hospital visits

HOW long before some poor soul has to go without hospital treatment due to parking charges?

Dudley Council's latest cash cow idea to charge residents £95 per year to park outside their own homes, will only increase the coffers of the private company that inflicts the sick tax on hospital visitors, patients and staff, by further enforcing their parking monopoly in the area.

The council must be made to understand that it is not their right to help finance the private company that owns Russells Hall Hospital parking rights by putting unnatural parking restrictions around the hospital residential area. The more the council help them by restricting parking in the hospital area, the more the private companies can charge us to park.

In South Staffordshire we have no hospital of our own so we have to travel by car as there is no direct bus to the hospital. How long will it be before someone has to avoid visiting a friend or family member or even having hospital treatment just because they cannot afford to park on, or are restricted from parking near, to the hospital?

UKIP are the only local political party to vigilantly oppose all hospital car park charges in our area.

G E FANTHOM
Swindon Village

Facing a doctor dilemma

I TRIED to book to see my doctor and was told the first available appointment was more than a week away.

If it was an emergency I could ring at 8am the next morning when they opened up slots for people needing to see the doctor urgently.

My problem is a recurring upsetting annoyance which lasts for a couple or three days and then disappears. I have spoken to the doctor before but as all the symptoms had disappeared again he was unable to do anything. If I take the appointment for eight days' time, the problem could have righted itself again – so I will be back where I started.

All I and most other people want is an appointment within a couple of days without having to feel guilty for taking an emergency slot that someone more deserving could have used.

J JAMES
Stourbridge

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Dentist Polly
(GDC No 188090)
with Ivor Brookes

Reviving Ivor's smile

IN ALL WAYS Ivor Brookes is gentle giant – a warm, engaging health professional, who is now rediscovering that his lips are moving when he talks. The 53-year-old Radiographer and ultrasound diagnostics clinician laughs easily and is generous with his compliments and smiles.

Finding his lips again, he admits has been a strange experience but he's "getting more used to it" as every day passes.

Until recently, Ivor had endured major problems with his teeth. Recurring abscesses beneath his lower back molars had resulted in extractions, but that was just the beginning of a 15-year period with his teeth in gradual decline.

Now after major restorative dentistry most of his mouth has been rebuilt at the North Street Dental Clinic, Dudley, where he has been a patient for three generations of dentists.

Dental surgeon Polly (GDC No 188090), a Doctor of Dental Medicine with a particular interest in restorative, cosmetic and paediatric fields, has rebuilt both the upper and lower arches of Ivor's teeth.

Abscesses

It's a procedure that has included 12 root canal fillings, 13 bonded crowns and bridgework.

The result is nothing short of a transformation. The aesthetic dentistry looks natural and the new teeth structure has reshaped Ivor's face and realigned his bite.

"I had suffered with abscesses on under my upper molars on both sides of my mouth and the teeth had to come out. There really wasn't another option.

"From then on there was a very gradual deterioration of my teeth and at first I really didn't notice, but losing my upper molars meant that I was chewing more and more on my front teeth,



Before the restorative work –
Ivor's irregular and
damaged teeth

"Eventually I literally ground down my front teeth – I had very little left in the lower jaw, just a few millimetres of stumps and my top teeth were irregular."

He recalls: "It became difficult to take a bite out of an apple and I resorted to carrying a pocket knife to cut chunks off the fruit. Things happened so gradually that I really didn't notice the changes that were happening."

Ivor's journey to restoration really began nearly two years ago when he visited North Street suffering with a sensitive tooth.

"I didn't like two of the options that were presented – I certainly didn't want a full clearance of my teeth or dentures, or for that matter, dentures fixed on implants. But I was more comfortable with the restorative dentistry route and after weighing things up decided to start my treatment with Polly 10 months ago," says Ivor.

Before the procedures were completed Ivor realised he was "speaking through a small hole." Subconsciously he was holding his

lips closer together. "People were often asking me to speak louder or complained that I was mumbling and I wasn't even aware of it.

"Now it feels really odd as my lips are beginning to move properly again – but I'm getting more used to it and I'm really happy with the teeth," adds the crown green bowls enthusiast.

Polly, who joined the team in Dudley after working in Michigan, USA, at a prestigious cosmetic dental centre, says: "When we fitted the final crowns there was a marked change in Ivor's facial features and his speech is now definitely clearer.

"He's been a great patient – ten months of dentistry and I'm a fairly fast worker – and the results are excellent. The restorative work looks so natural

and he will gain normal function with speech and eating more and more as time goes on.

"Key to this therapy were the good, healthy gums Ivor has. They were not infected, so I was able to proceed with a lot of restorative work."

First class

And what of the North Street Dental Clinic care? "At no time did I feel excluded from what was going on. I always felt in control myself and Polly instilled so much confidence in me as she took me through all of the work.

"It was first class – the nursing and everything – and it was all as pain-free as it possibly could be, even the injections.

"She used an ultra-fine needle to administer the anaesthesia and all I felt was a little pressure of the anaesthetic going into the tissue."

Ivor is now planning to replace his missing molars with implant teeth, which will be carried out in North Street in due course.

Nearly nine out of ten families see no recovery

I KNOW people think politicians are stuck in London, are out of touch and don't care what's happening in places like Dudley, but I grew up here and live here now. I work hard to listen to local people and take what they say seriously.

That's why this year, like last year and the year before, I wrote to thousands of local people to ask about the cost of living.

I wanted to find out how the economy is affecting people in Dudley and tell the Chancellor in black and white what's actually going on.

Struggling

It's clear from what people have told me that there's no recovery for struggling families in Dudley, whatever George Osborne claims.

Nearly nine out of ten families in Dudley told me that their finances were not improving at all. Just one in three are optimistic about their finances in the year ahead.

Far and away the biggest drain on family budgets were rising energy bills, with 86 per cent telling me that they were a concern. Two thirds said they were worried about the cost of food and everyday household items too. This is making it more difficult for people to put away savings and support their families.

Three-quarters had stopped saving or were spending their savings to

THE WAY I SEE IT



Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin takes the stand in our weekly Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views

"5,695 families across the Black Country had to top up pre-paid gas and electric meters to cook their Christmas dinner"

get by, and almost half told me that they couldn't afford to help children who were struggling to make ends meet.

Unemployment continues to be a problem and 60 per cent knew someone who has been out of work for longer than six months. Nearly half blamed this on a lack of Government investment in our area with a third saying that a lack of skills contributes to unemployment.

We can't afford another budget where George Osborne hands millionaires another tax cut – we need help for families right now. That's why I wrote to him

ahead of the Budget to tell him what's really going on in Dudley.

LAST week I came across more evidence that there's no recovery in the Black Country yet. Research that I put together shows that 5,695 families across the Black Country had to rush to the shops to top up pre-paid gas and electric meters to cook their Christmas dinner. That's a huge number of people getting by with so little on their gas and electric meters that they didn't have enough to get through from Christmas Eve to Boxing Day.

Annual energy bills have gone up by £300 a year since 2010, and I know this has made it harder for many people in the Black Country to make ends meet and keep their homes warm. George Osborne's budget has to address this. I want the Government to introduce an energy price freeze to help working families with their bills but so far they've refused to take action.

OVER the last few weeks hundreds of local people have been in touch with me about the Government's 'hospital closure clause'.

Technically, the clause would let 'special administrators' brought in to save struggling hospitals recommend changes or closures at hospitals beyond the one in trouble. In practice, the clause would hand new powers to the Government to go over the heads of local people to close hospitals like Russells Hall.

It just goes to show that you can't trust the Tories with the NHS.

Like anyone else who lives in Dudley and uses Russells Hall, I'm really concerned that changes to services could happen without local people ever having a say in the matter. That's why I pushed the Government to reject the clause last week.

It just shouldn't be possible to close a hospital without consulting on it first, so I want a future Labour Government to repeal Clause 119 completely.

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Villa Park hit hardest by theft

MOBILE phones, cash, debit cards and number plates have been stolen while fans were watching games at West Midlands football grounds, figures show.

Aston Villa saw most complaints of thefts at their stadium in the last three years with 21 incidents recorded by police at Villa Park, which holds almost 43,000 fans, since 2010. In contrast, Wolves' Molineux, which has a capacity of 31,700, saw just seven recorded offences between 2010 and 2014.

West Bromwich Albion's The Hawthorns and Birmingham City's St Andrews saw 18 thefts each while Walsall's Banks's Stadium saw 16 despite the lowest capacity — 11,300 — of the five clubs.

Mobile phones were the most stolen item with 33 swiped at the five grounds in four years.

Come on our Neil in Dexys book salute



Dexys Midnight Runners superfan Neil Warburton

DEXYS Midnight Runners superfan Neil Warburton has written book about the band's history. The 42-year-old from Oldbury is also long-time friend of the band's mercurial frontman Kevin Rowland.

Mr Warburton first got into the band when a child and the very first record he bought was their 1980 chart-topper 'Geno'. The group's Kevin Rowland lived in the same street as Neil, Apollo Road.

He said: "I remember sitting in front of the TV watching the band and my mum came in and saw Kevin. She said: 'He only lives up the road'. It is not often you find one of your neighbours is your favourite rock star."

Mr Warburton, who still lives in Apollo Road, eventually plucked up the courage to knock on his neighbour's door and ask for an autograph. The two men remain friends.

Mr Warburton's book is a compilation of 15 issues of his fanzine Keep On Running, published from 1995 to 2000, along with new interviews from band members. The book will be launched at Oldbury's Railway Inn and the Court of Requests pub in Church Road on Saturday.

Heroin dealer is back behind bars

A DRUG dealer is back behind bars after being caught selling heroin. Police found 13 wraps of the drug split into £10 deals when they raided the Dudley home of Harry Edwards on October 30, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

There were also three wraps of crack cocaine, three sets of scales, a roll of cling film, mobile phones and a Stanley blade at the address in Queen Street, Pensnett, said Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting.

Edwards, 39, had bought heroin to sell on to others but the cocaine was for his own use, the court heard.

Mr Malcolm Fowler, defending, said father-of-two Edwards had had a long struggle with drug addiction. He had a previous conviction for drug dealing and other offences.

Edwards, admitted possession of heroin with intent to supply and possession of cocaine and was jailed for three years ten months by Judge John Warner, who told him: "You have a very bad record spread over many years."

Canal heritage volunteer was a convicted sex offender

A SEX offender banned from contact with children got a voluntary job with a canal group visited by youngsters.

Edward 'Eddy' Hunt, 68, was a volunteer with Dudley Canal Trust for three years before his past was discovered. Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. He had twice been jailed for offences involving children and been cautioned for possession of child porn. The trust took him on without

checking if he had a criminal past, revealed Mr Geoffrey Dann, prosecuting. Hunt, of Park Village, who joined the trust in 2010, sometimes met school groups. Mr Dann added: "He was not left alone with the children, who had a teacher with them, but that action was a breach of the Sex Offender Prevention Order."

He was arrested in September after a sex offender manager, who took over his case, learned Hunt had contact with children as a volunteer. Mr David

Bratt, defending, said: "He had not kept this secret. The previous offender manager had been advised where he was working."

Hunt, of Mickley Avenue, admitted breaking terms of the order and was given a three year community order and 24-week curfew. Trust director Alan Hazeldine said: "Dudley Canal Trust is reviewing all its operating and volunteer manning procedures in order to eliminate the possibility of this ever happening again."



Pervert Edward Hunt

School to get road crossing

A ZEBRA crossing will be introduced outside a school in a bid to improve children's safety, at a cost of £20,000.

Dudley Council is to install the crossing on the Hagley Road, outside the Hasbury Primary School, in Halesowen.

Transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed made the decision after a consultation with residents, police and transport operators last month. Only one objection was made from a nearby resident concerned of the impact on property prices.

Councillor Ahmed said: "Having given consideration to the comments and observations received as well as the aims of the scheme to improve road safety, it is felt to be appropriate that the introduction of pedestrian crossing should proceed."

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Sandwell lack of qualifications

TWO areas of the Black Country have among the highest proportion of residents with no qualifications in the country.

Sandwell was placed third out of nearly 350 authorities for the highest amount of people between the ages of 16 and 64 who have no academic or professional qualifications while Walsall was placed sixth in the research by the Office of National Statistics.

The data comes from the 2011 census. According to the figures, nearly 50,000 people in Sandwell have no level of qualification, including GCSEs, A Levels, vocational qualifications or degrees, which equates to around one in four people in the borough.

Sandwell Council's cabinet member for children's services, Councillor Simon Hackett, said officials were doing what they could to improve that figure.

Sir Trevor to open £1.2m football centre



An aerial view of Kewford Eagles facilities at Wall Heath

WORK has been completed on a £1.2 million football centre to coach the next generation of players, ahead of an official opening by one of the legends of the game.

More than 550 young footballers play for Kewford Eagles FC which has created a new centre of excellence in Wall Heath, Kingswinford.

Former England international Sir Trevor Brooking will officially open the new facility at the club's ground in Swindon Road on April 26.

Eleven new football pitches have been landscaped and created over the past 12 months on the ground neighbouring Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club.

Cash for the project came in the form of grants from the Football Foundation, Sport England, Cory Environmental and other funders.

A new sports pavilion has been built as part of the works alongside a car park on the 30-acre site.

There are also four changing rooms, toilets and a kitchen created as part of the development.

Sir Trevor will make the official opening from 12noon.

Kia crashes into a High Street takeaway

A MOTORIST was taken to hospital after her car clipped a parked vehicle before crashing into a shop front.

The woman suffered suspected spinal injuries in the crash which closed Dudley High Street for around 90 minutes on Monday. The fire service, ambulance and police were called to the scene at just before 11am after the black Kia crashed into Caspian Pizza shop.

Watch commander Paul Clark said: "We assisted paramedics to get a female, the driver, out of the vehicle using a long board. They treated her for suspected spine and neck injuries and took her to hospital. She had collided with a parked car and come to a rest against the shop."

Ryan Richards, owner of Slicks hairdressers next door to the takeaway, said: "It was cutting hair, and then boom. There was a loud bang and the car's in the wall."

A structural engineer from Dudley Council checked the building was safe and National Grid capped a gas pipe.

Warning on car cat crime as thieves chop off converters

A RETIRED foundry worker is appealing for help to track down 'cat crooks' who cut a valuable chunk out of his car exhaust in the latest in a spate of similar attacks.

Raiders jacked Ray Harvey's car up on his drive in Stourbridge during the early hours and hacked off its catalytic converter.

It follows police warnings and a campaign urging motorists to security mark their vehicles after more than 70 catalytic converters

— known as 'cats' — were stolen from cars and vans in Dudley.

Mr Harvey, aged 63, of Peak Road, Penfields, only realised what had happened when he heard a banging noise, followed by the exhaust falling off, as he started the car a few hours later.

Their son-in-law, unemployed mechanic Andre Didlick, of Amblecote, discovered that the 'cat' was missing.

Mr Harvey said: "They cost about £300 to replace. Thieves target them because they can sell the metals off for £200 or more and I would like to know if anyone saw the thieves."

A neighbour's CCTV caught the thieves on camera jacking up the car at 4.50am on March 8 and it took just three minutes 10 seconds for them to remove the 'cat'.

The footage showed the shadowy images of two men who arrived in a black car.

More than 70 catalytic converters were stolen in Dudley between April and December with thieves targeting vehicles including Mercedes Sprinter vans, Kia, Mitsubishi, Ford, Peugeot, Citroen and Hyundai. Police urge drivers not to park their cars with two wheels on the kerb because it gives easier access.

Teens rescued from reservoir

THREE teenagers were rescued from a water ski ramp after becoming stranded in the middle of a reservoir when their dinghy burst.

Two 15-year-old boys and a 16-year-old boy had been using a dinghy at Lodge Farm Reservoir, in Highbridge Road, Netherton, on Saturday.

Firefighters and a water rescue unit were called to the reservoir, which is used by Dudley Water Ski Club, at about 5pm. The teenagers are not believed to have been members. Fire crews used an inflatable boat to bring the boys back to shore.

Watch commander Roy Whitehead, from Brierley Hill fire station, said the boys were not stuck there for very long and were all okay.

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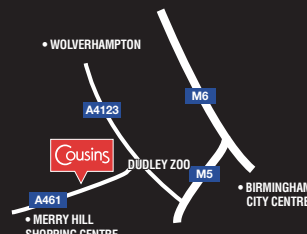
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DT

Couple win fight for justice after roof fraud

A CANCER sufferer and his wife have spoken of their battle for justice after falling victim to a cowboy roofer.

Maurice Rudge, aged 79, had only just suffered a stroke when he and his wife, Janet, were misled into having work done on their Halesowen home by Jason Charles in August 2011.

Charles knocked on their door saying he was working nearby and had noticed two chimneys on their property needed re-pointing. He told the couple they were in a 'dangerous condition'.

But the job was not completed despite the couple making constant phone calls to the company.

Charles was found guilty of five charges of fraud by a jury at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week. He was also convicted of participating in a fraudulent business and engaging in a commercial practice which contravened the requirements of professional diligence in relation to a second victim.

The court heard that he had failed to provide a reasonable price for the work and scaffolding on the Rudge's property. Charles had also failed to tell the couple they could cancel the contract at any time.

He ran his business PRS Roofing with his brother Dean Powers who was also found guilty of participating in a fraudulent business and engaging in commercial practice which contravened the requirements of professional diligence, in relation to a separate victim.

The court was told that Charles and Powers, 46, of Rainscar, Wilnecote, Tamworth, had failed to carry out the expected standard of work at another man's home in Halesowen. They also misled him by claiming the work was guaranteed for 30 years.

Michael Rimmer paid out £2,800 for the new fibre glass roof in October 2010 but by September 2012 it had suffered two leaks.

Mr Rudge, of Blackberry Lane, an ambulance man for more than 30 years, has welcomed the guilty ver-



Janet and Maurice Rudge were conned into paying a rogue roofer £2,400

dicts. He said: "We had no concerns about the state of the chimneys until Charles showed up. He originally said the work would cost £700 for the work. Then he came back and said it would be £700 for both chimneys. After that it was £1,000 for the scaffolding to be put up.

"I was taken advantage of, there is no doubt about that."

Mrs Rudge, 79, said the guilty ver-

dicts represented the 'end of a very long road'. She said her husband had suffered another stroke last year and she blamed the stress.

"We are just relieved it is finally all over," she said.

Recorder Anthony Potter remanded Powers and Charles in custody until their next appearance on May 14. He said custodial sentences were 'likely' for both of them.

Local Weekly Newspapers

With You All The Way



Apprentices brush up on their Deutsch



Billy Meldrum, Doosan Babcock's training manager, with engineering apprentices Danny Lord and Lucy Green

A GROUP of engineering apprentices from the Black Country have had a crash course in speaking German ahead of a cultural exchange.

Training experts BCTG, based in Oldbury, are taking the apprentices on a two-week work experience programme to businesses in Liepzig, Germany.

Another group of apprentices will head for Rybnik, in Poland, as part of the programme. In total 32 young engineers based at Doosan Babcock in Tipton will get the chance to work with their European counterparts and take in some of the culture when they travel to Doosan Babcock Energy Polska and Doosan Babcock Energy Germany.

Taking care with survey

RESIDENTS who look after friends, family or neighbours are being asked to contribute to a West Midlands-wide project focusing on training opportunities for carers.

The project aims to see which training sessions, workshops and online courses are the most useful for carers.

Feedback from them will shape future training opportunities and could help to create a wider choice of courses.

Councillor Barbara McCracken, portfolio holder for social care in Walsall is working with Suzanne Joyner, head of community care, to raise awareness of the project. She said: "People are not necessarily trained to do some of the things they need to do as part of their caring role and any

support they can access can help make a real difference to them. We are asking carers to take part in a survey to tell us exactly what they think of existing training opportunities."

The survey which is available at www.surveymonkey.com/s/Carer straining is open until May 15. It can be completed anonymously but those who give their details will be entered into a prize draw to win a £20 gift voucher for a store of their choice.

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Rockville now top of the pops on internet

A NEW Halesowen business which sells classic music publications has won quick recognition from internet giant eBay.

On leaving his job with a Government department last year, Simon Heritage set up Rockville Store, a 'virtual shop' to trade in vintage music items on the popular auction site.

The inspiration for the business, which he runs from his home, came from his lifelong love of music.

Rockville, launched last autumn, specialises in selling vintage copies of music newspapers New Musical Express, Melody Maker and Sounds, as well as concert memorabilia such as programmes and used tickets.

Outstanding

After less than four months of trading, Rockville Store has been awarded eBay's top-rated seller status, which is given to high-volume traders who consistently offer an outstanding service to customers.

Mr Heritage, aged 50, originally from Tipton, has lived in Halesowen for more than 15 years. He said: "I'm really delighted to now be classed as a top-rated seller. It was always a target in my business plan to attain this as soon as possible but I am still a little surprised at how quickly it has been accomplished."

"It's a nice reward for the long hours and effort put in to getting the business from the drawing board to the point where we now have hundreds of happy customers, all over the world."

Mr Heritage said a mix of people were buying the retro items he offers.

"Those in my age group might want

to revisit the their youth, or replace stuff they regret throwing out years ago. On the other hand, thanks to the internet and digital radio, younger people are discovering a much wider range of music, including bands from 30 to 40 years ago. Having heard the songs, they then want to read about



Simon Heritage found success with his Rockville 'virtual' music publications store

the band, or even frame an iconic magazine cover for their wall," he explained.

He is looking to build on the initial success during the coming year.

He added: "The single most difficult part of the business is listing items on the eBay site quickly enough. At any

one time, I am likely to have several hundred things piled up and waiting to be uploaded."

"I am hoping to be able to take on extra help to overcome this at some point, and to continue to expand."

The Rockville Store website is at: <http://stores.ebay.co.uk/rockvillestore>

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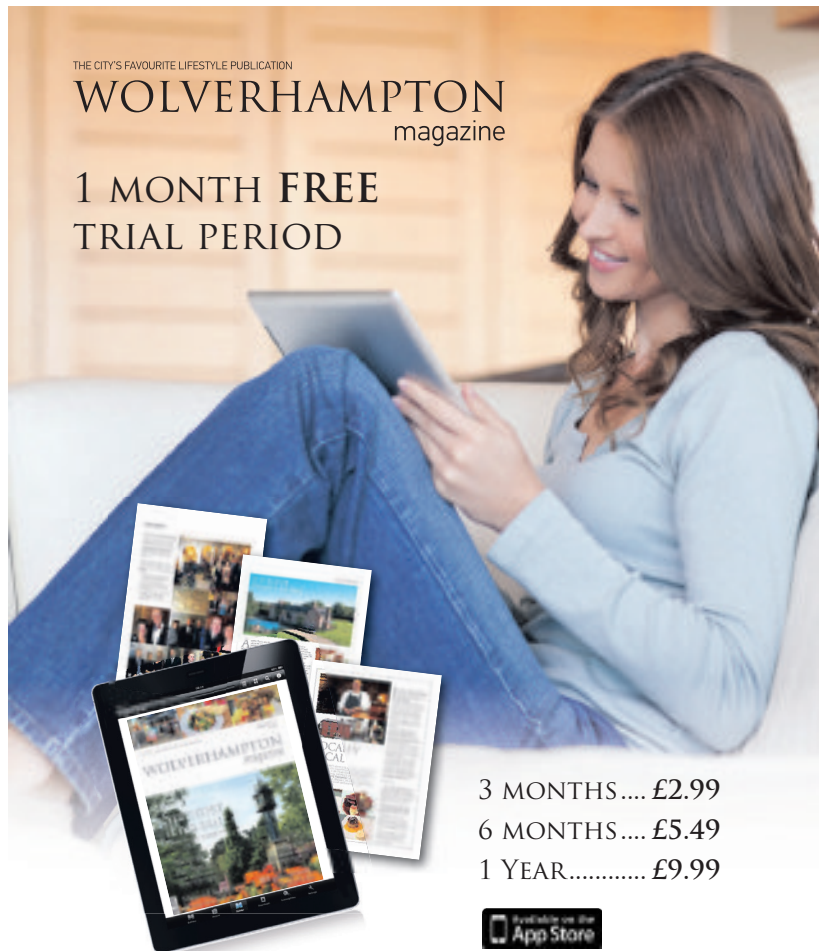
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MNA Media

Teenager is sentenced for drunken attack at bar

Ambulances are failing to meet 999 target times

17
Dudley Chronicle
Thursday, March 20, 2014

**Dresses for sale
— only used once**



Model Lauren Fulford in a 'pre-loved' wedding dress on sale at Priory Hall bridal fair in Dudley

THEY make a bride beautiful and help form a lasting memory of a fabulous wedding day but no-one has to know how much the wedding dress really cost.

Hundreds of bargain hunters tuned out at an wedding open day to browse a selection of about 50 'pre-loved' wedding dresses, which went up for sale alongside brand new gowns.

Among the dresses on offer at the fair at Priory Hall in Dudley were two Alfred Angelo dresses, both first purchased for £1,000 and £700, but now being sold for £400 and £330. There was also a Roman Original wedding dress which originally cost £140, but now has a price tag of £40.

Penny Fulford, superintendent registrar at Priory Hall, said it was the first time the venue had held a pre-loved dress sale at its bridal fair.

Also at the fair were newly made wedding dresses, vehicle hire companies and caterers. A total of 404 people attended the event on Saturday.

Rival schemes delay return of Churchill mosaic

DELAYS have hit the restoration of an iconic Dudley memorial to war-time leader Winston Churchill as protracted talks over development of a key town centre site continue.

Plans to bring back the colourful mosaic, which was the centrepiece of Dudley's original Churchill Precinct for more than 20 years, were first announced a year ago.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin unveiled the scheme which aims to get the memorial restored and returned to the town by next year — the 50th anniversary of Churchill's death.

Despite ongoing talks no firm proposals for the restoration have been finalised.

It is hoped the restored memorial will form part of redevelopment plans for the long-disused Cavendish House site, off Trindle Road.

Supermarket

A spokesman for Mr Austin on Monday said the delays stemmed from the fact it was not yet clear which developer would be carrying out work at the site.

Planning permission has been awarded to two separate schemes on the site, each including a supermarket. Rival developers Avenbury and Cavendish Quarter Properties Ltd have submitted plans for the land with each controlling part of the site.

A DRUNKEN teenager who attacked two young men outside a bar in Sedgley has been sent to a Young Offenders Institution for nine months.

Luke Shelley, of Mount Road, Lanesfield, Wolverhampton, admitted assault causing actual bodily harm and common assault at Wolverhampton Crown Court. The two victims were drinking with friends at the town centre venue, said Mr David Osof, prosecuting.

Escalated

They were at the Clifton Bar in Sedgley while Shelley was with another group of young men.

Words were exchanged, umbrage was taken and the aggression escalated, said Mr Osof.

Report by Jon Pritchard

He said Shelley struck out at the one man. Then, when a patrolling police car moved away from the scene of the incident in Sedgley's Bull Ring, he assaulted the man again before then joining in a group attack on the other victim.

Mr Pat Currie, for Shelley, said he maintained he had not kicked out during the incident, which he accepted had resulted in unpleasant injuries for the two men, who had suffered cuts and bruising.

"He was heavily intoxicated and he does not remember too much about what happened," said Mr Currie.

"He accepts what he did was a complete over-reaction."

Mr Currie said 19-year-old Shelley, who had no previous convictions for violence, had found it extremely difficult to view the CCTV footage.

He added: "What he did was out of

character and he is full of remorse for his actions."

Recorder Tina Landale said Shelley had learned nothing from his previous court appearances and he had to go behind bars for his involvement in what was "quite serious public disorder."

Recorder Landale said: "In drink, you were pumped up and looking for trouble."

Frightened

She continued: "Your offending calls for a deterrent sentence because members of the public are frightened by such behaviour."

Recorder Landale described the one assault on a man who was punched and kicked as "vicious".

She told him: "You were caught handed on the CCTV footage."

AMBULANCE crews in the West Midlands are failing to reach some emergency patients within strict eight minute-targets.

Inspectors from the Care Quality Commission have told officials at West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust that action is needed to tackle the problem.

They found the trust had been 'experiencing difficulty' in meeting targets for response times to some emergency calls since July 2013.

Trust chief executive Anthony Marsh told a governors meeting that there was 'more work to do' to meet the guideline time.

Ambulances should be on scene within eight minutes for the most serious patients and this is broken

down into two categories - Red 1 for the highest priority cases and Red 2.

Patients classed as Red 2 have conditions 'which may be life threatening but less time critical' according to parameters published by NHS England.

But ambulance crews should still reach those patients, irrespective of location, within eight minutes in 75 per cent of calls.

However paramedics in the West Midlands had only reached patients in the second most serious category with targets in 73.7 per cent of cases.

The Trust had reported an increase of four per cent in the number of emergency calls.

It is planning to recruit new paramedics.

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The company perform family favourite The Wiz on stage in 1999



Eurobeat director Maureen Bowyer, left, and Anne Hewitt



A stage adaptation of comic strip favourite Andy Capp from 1991, by the company



A 1990 performance of The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas



The Night Maxi Tortellini Hit Big Lola Latrobes, in 1992

Group to see future in Eurovision for milestone silver anniversary

IT has created lifelong friendships and been served by different generations of the same families – and a musical theatre group is now celebrating its silver anniversary.

The Great Barr Musical Theatre Company has reached a milestone 25 years with its performances still a popular draw for audiences.

And to mark the occasion members will put on a show for a run of four nights – a first for the group. The company's first performance, in 1989, was a production of The Wiz, telling the classic story and musical The Wizard of Oz.

And since then members have gone on to bring a wide range of well-known musicals to the stage – including the Little Shop of Horrors, Guys and Dolls, the Wedding Singer and Boogie Nights.

Members have also performed Return to the Forbidden Planet, Little Me and Real-

MEMORY LANE by Adam Grinsell

ity the Musical. The group presently has 25 members but are always open to new people who want to join and take part in performances.

It also has its own band which performs the music during shows.

To celebrate the anniversary, the group will be putting on the special performance of musical Eurobeat in July.

The show, described as a 'mickey take' of the Eurovision Song Contest, will see a number of performances from 'contestants'. During the show, the audience is encouraged to get involved by voting for their favourites. It will be staged at the Old Rep Theatre, in Birmingham, from July 1 to 4.

Members of the group said they were very proud to reach the landmark anniversary but admitted it had not always been easy due to production costs and getting new

members on board. Office manager Anne Hewitt, 59 and from Duxford Road, Great Barr, has been a member since the group was founded by friends who convinced her to join.

Both of her daughters have been members of the group in the past, and her husband Gary joined up in 1997. She said: "Being a part of this company gives you great confidence and it's a great sense of being part of something," she said.

Memorable

"I've met some amazing people that have got amazing talent they didn't realise they had. I've had a lot of ups and downs in my life and it's helped me to get over them," she said.

Anne has performed in all of the group's shows and is one of only three original members taking an active role in the company, alongside Albert Lyons and Margaret Pitt – although they have taken breaks from the group. Group secretary Maureen Bowyer said there had been memorable mo-

ments for the group over the years – including the time one member fell into the band pit before a performance. But after emerging unscathed the performer, Shirley Lane, went ahead with her performance.

Maureen said: "It really was a case of the show must go on. It was just before a production of Chicago. After she fell the whole place went totally silent for around 30 seconds until she popped her head out and shouted 'I'm okay'."

Rehearsals for the show are now well under way with the group meeting once a week at the Co-op Rooms, in Walsall Road, Great Barr on Tuesday evenings. And members have also been out and about searching for materials to make the costumes for the new show.

The group says, just like the real Eurovision, there will be a wide range of styles including traditional dress, some 70s Glam rock influenced outfits and some which are a little more bizarre. For ticket or membership inquiries, see www.greatbarmusicaltheatrecompany.co.uk

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TV medic signs with growing furniture firm



Managing director Lisa Wardley and Dr Hilary Jones try out Repose chairs at the firm's showroom

A GROWING family-run specialist furniture firm has signed a television medical expert as its health advisor.

Dr Hilary Jones, who appears on GMTV's Daybreak and on Steve Wright's BBC Radio Two show, will be the face of Repose Furniture's range of bespoke chairs which have been developed to meet a wide range of healthcare needs.

Dr Jones visited Repose's new factory in Cokeland Place, Cradley Heath,

to sign a contract and help celebrate the business's 15th anniversary.

The Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Linda Horton, was among the guests who also visited on the day and she and managing director Lisa Wardley cut a celebration cake.

Commercial director Keith Fairhurst said that Dr Jones would help Repose to move on to the next stage of its growth.

The company, which was originally started in Cradley Heath, relocated from Brierley Hill where it had been since 2001 in August last year.

Mr Fairhurst said the 23,500 sq ft

unit has three times the space of the former premises and gave the company the room it needed to grow.

Repose's turnover grew by 27 per cent last year to £3.2 million and it aims to reach £5m by 2016.

The move has also seen the company recruit 10, increasing its workforce to 33.

Dr Jones said he was delighted to have become the 'medical ambassador' for the business which he said already had a wonderful reputation within the medical market.

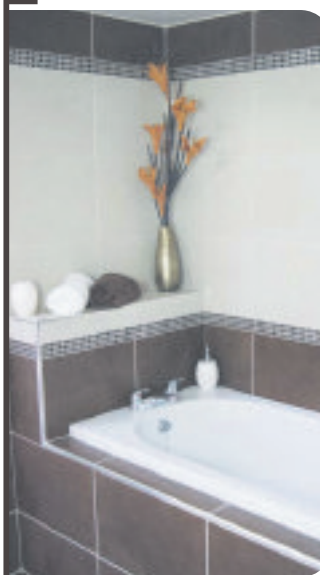
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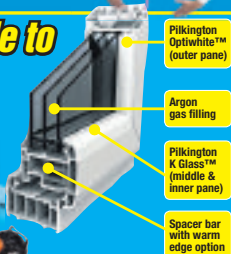
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CAROL 38 attractive romantic not looking for fairy tales just happy endings, seeking lovely male to put the sparkle back into my life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410721 ☎

CLAIRE voluptuous tall feminine attractive lady who loves good company, fine wine/food, travel, WLTW tall professional for romance dates and hopeful ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410627 ☎

SAM 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box 408297

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, slim, 57, nurse, looking for someone to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410543

MICHELLE 37, looking for laughter fun and romance with the right guy, if you could be him and have nothing to loose call me for a chat. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410415 ☎

TAYLOR 21 black beautiful classy intelligent, loves to have lots of fun and enjoy life to the full, seeking mature guy to make me happy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409911 ☎

WENDY 50, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, likes music, meals out, seeks white male, 45-55 with similar interests and GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410499 ☎

FEMALE 65, attractive, much younger looking, slim but curvy 5ft 2ins blonde, seeks younger man. Loves animals and cosy nights in. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4319200

PAULINE attractive divorced female with no ties, employed with my own home, likes nights in/out, lots of tic to give to the right person, call me for a chat, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411039 ☎

SARAH, married lady seeks discreet no strings fun with gent. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box 408291

JEN attractive sensual petite blonde with OHAC seeks confident fit professional male to enjoy and share good times, if that's you pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410949 ☎

ARE you dark or bald, with hairy chest, well built, educated, verbal, articulate dom or sub, broadminded and ready to be put in your place? Curious to find out more? Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410637 ☎

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 366019

29YR old black beautiful busty tall loving very sensual lady, likes football, making friends, seeking genuine white male for enjoyable loving relationship. Pls no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410577 ☎

YOUNG early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410847 ☎

ADVENTUROUS attractive lady seeks no strings casual times with discreet gent. Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box 409991

JANE attractive, feminine open-minded mature female genuinely looking for adult fun. No time wasters please. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409715 ☎

JILL 50, attractive, 5ft, blonde, own home, no ties, likes films, reading, travel, music, good social circle, seeking that someone special. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410105 ☎

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, 56, enjoys country walks, meals out, seeks professional gent with GSOH to enjoy the good things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409895

ELAINE attractive 39yr old blonde single mum seeking respectful male/ideal with similar interests for adult friendship, hopefully leading to love. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410117 ☎

DONNA 27yrs blue eyed blonde with cute dimpled smile, loves socialising but looking for that special someone with GSOH to cuddle up with, enjoy fun/good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409738 ☎

73YR old Hereford lady, GSOH, young at heart, many interests, seeks caring, genuine gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410331 ☎

NICKY bubbly curvy fun blonde, varied interests, enjoys meals out, holidays, seeking N/S male with GSOH for possible ltr. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410478 ☎

KAREN 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTW for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easy going guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410461 ☎

LIZ 5ft 7ins, attractive, outgoing, likes walks, dogs, cooking, seeks male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410395

ZOE 25 long haired sensual female, very naughty, broadminded and open looking for similar fun guy for uncomplicated adult meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409719 ☎

Men seeking women

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STEVE 63, tall, fit, energetic, N/S, seeks lady, 55-60 for friendship and who knows. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410941

SEAN 46, brown hair/eyes, average looks/build, loving, caring, understanding, seeks female to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410845 ☎

KEV 53, Stoke, seeking female for fun, romance, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410997

SHROPSHIRE male, 49yrs caring, looking for single lady for relationship 40/50. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4333566

GOOD looking tanned guy blue eyes good physique 45, looking for an attractive likeminded slim female 19-40. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4320125

66YR old male enjoys country walks, pubs, and cycling seeks similar minded lady to share life, 60ish. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4330594

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JOSEPH attractive Asian male, seeking attractive, genuine female, 38-50 for friendship and companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410267 ☎

PAUL 62, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410737 ☎

ATTRACTIVE tall, dark, professional male, broadminded, adventurous, clean, discreet, GSOH, easy going, good company, looking for lady for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410119

JEFF 35, GSOH, likes cinema, swimming, ice skating, seeks special female with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410737 ☎

CHRIS 32, 5ft 10ins, brown hair, blue eyes, open minded, looking for female for discreet no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410643 ☎

PETE 6ft 1ins, body builder, likes kick boxing, daughter, seeking female, 30-40 for love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410245 ☎

MALE 55, 5ft 10ins, seeks lady 30-58 for cosy nights in, holidays, nights out, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410207 ☎

STEVE 40, 6ft, muscular, dark hair, half Italian, seeks busty, classy lady, 55 plus for discreet adult fun. Where is my Sophia Loren? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410529 ☎

SFT 10ins male, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks female, 40 plus for daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410589 ☎

LUCA 67, 5ft 3ins, seeking some one for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410375

SLIM attractive man, tired of lonely nights, seeks genuine lady for friendship and evenings out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410261 ☎

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Woman of steel has big plans after expansion



Diane Kimberley with some of the team at Arford Steel Profiles' Dawley Trading Estate factory in Kingwinford

A BLACK Country woman has revealed ambitious plans to double the size of her business within three years.

Arford Steel Profiles has enjoyed fresh levels of trade since bringing in plasma technology towards the end of last year.

Owner Diane Kimberley is looking to build on that momentum with plans to increase turnover to record levels.

She's predicting growth of 20 per cent in just 12 months and is hoping the trend will continue in the years ahead.

Turnover at the company's Kingwinford site has increased to £2.5 million since Ms Kimberley took control in 2006.

Investment

But she now wants to double that figure by 2017 with further major investment on the cards.

"Our figures have been strong since the third quarter of last year and we're really optimistic about the future," she said.

"We've spent a lot of money on new machinery and that has given us a perfect platform for sustained growth.

Arford invested £300,000 on high-tech plasma cutting equipment in October and have been reaping the benefits ever since.

The success of the plasma machine has also prompted Ms Kimberley to re-evaluate her business plan.

While there's still plenty of room for new orders at the moment, she's keen to stay ahead of the game.

"We're looking to see the business grow by as much as 20 per cent in the next financial year and anticipate we'll need to invest in a second plasma machine within 24 months," she said.

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Bostin' fun is planned for Black Country Day

BUNTING, flags, pork scratchings, poetry and pride - this is the time to really big up everything we love about the Black Country.

Plans are now underway for a festival to celebrate what the heart of the industrial heritage of Britain has done for the world, with everything from inventions to language getting its moment in the sun.

And the idea has now become so big that the celebrations are likely to last an entire week.

Black Country Festival is based around July 14, the official Black Country Day. It is the anniversary of the invention of the Newcomen Engine, the first to harness the power of steam.

Campaign

Yet the only official celebration that took place last year was a flag, designed by a schoolgirl, flew from the offices of the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Redhill School pupil Gracie Sheppard's flag - a chain against a black, white and red background, has now been adopted as the official flag of the Black Country.

Now a campaign, backed by Dudley Council and the Black Country Living Museum, is gathering steam to celebrate everything people love about the area.

Many feel the event, similar to the annual Yorkshire Day held in the historic northern county, is long overdue given the Black Country's importance to the industrial revolution.

Whether it was Walsall's leather, Wolverhampton's locks, Netherton's chain making, Stourbridge's glass, the Bathams', Banks's, Davenport's and Holden's breweries to name but a few,



Making preparations at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley

a plate of faggots and peas, portion of Groaty Dick, or orange battered chips. The Black Country has given a lot to the world, with famous comedians, entertainers, sporting stars and bands.

Musicians, artists, street entertainers, jugglers, stilt walkers, fire eaters, poets, dancers, businesses, pubs, charities, community groups and entertainment venues are all being urged to fly the flag and put on events this summer.

The Black Country Festival was the brainchild of Garry Sawers who chairs a committee of people working under the title Black Country Festival.

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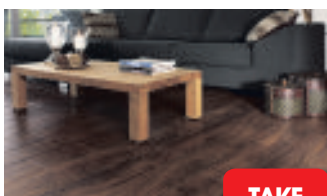
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From busking to the big time

by Danny Farragher

IT does sound a little like a script from a musical for Exeter-based duo Phillip Henry and Hannah Martin who were “discovered” busking as part of Sidmouth Folk Week.

Fast forward a few years to The Royal Albert Hall and they are being handed the Radio2 Folk Award for best duo.

“I think winning the best folk award is probably the pinnacle of what we have done so far,” said Henry. “It was a shock really.”

So what is the real story behind Steve Knightley of band Show of Hands finding them busking, did he really come across the duo by chance?

“Yes it was really,” explains Henry. “Obviously geographically it was likely to happen because we live quite close to each other, but it was at Sidmouth that he spotted us busking on the sea front.

Cathedral

“Steve contacted me and said they had about three openings on their cathedral tour. The biggest one we did was Bath at Wells Cathedral, which was in front of about 800 people so we were straight in at the deep end. From there they asked us to join them on their spring tour the next year so we did another 12 concerts with them. It was a big learning curve for us.”

The duo who are an item, should you be wondering, both have an impressive musical track record with Martin being encouraged from an early age to follow her musical leanings while Henry has travelled to Asia to study classical Indian music.

With being both a working couple as well as traversing the North South divide (Hannah is from Devon and



Phillip Henry and Hannah Martin who won the Radio2 Folk Award for best duo

Phillip Lancashire) do they work well together? Henry has little doubt about it.

“Well I am very sarcastic and Helen is very well spoken so I think it is quite a good dynamic on stage, we have a good laugh. Helen brings a lot of West Country stuff to the act.

“We are writing really well together these days and with each album we find new approaches to what we are writing and so the quality of our writing is improving.”

If you go by their latest collabora-

tion which produced their acclaimed and second album Mynd then the team work seems to be paying off.

Has all the new recognition, the award, the successful second album changed their horizons or ambitions?

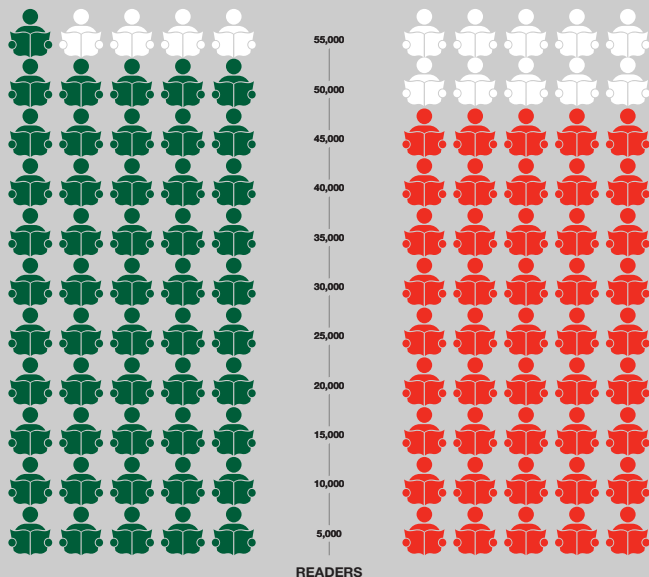
“I suppose it’s given us a nice boost of confidence and hope for the future,” admits Martin.

Phillip Henry & Hannah Martin are at the Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham B14 7SA on March 30. Call 0121 443 4725. Doors open 7.30pm and tickets are £10.

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Impressive is the word for Grease



Wolverhampton MUSCOM principles including Holly Stringfellow and Tom Winfield (middle)

Grease, Wolverhampton Musical Comedy Company, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre GREASE was the word as Wolverhampton Musical Comedy Company performed its version of the classic and much loved show.

It was a high-energy performance from the talented 43-strong cast, featuring most of the favourite hits from the cult film, made famous by John Travolta and Olivia Newton John.

There were plenty of good comedy performances within the show. The T-Birds were charming and likeable, while the Pink Ladies all impressed with their dance moves and most of all their voices, each one able to hold their own in solos.

Special mention should be made of Holly Stringfellow in the role of Sandy, who delivered a near faultless vocal performance as she tackled some of the show's trickier numbers including 'Hopelessly Devoted to You' and 'Summer Loving'.

Tom Winfield in the role of Danny Zuko was also charming and confident. Some of the show's dance routines were of particular note. One of the highlights of the two hour show was

the school dance scene, which featured a quick and lively hand jive that almost had you wanting to rush up on stage and join in. The routines were slick, well rehearsed and energetic.

The scenery helped create a real 1950s America feel and there was a clever turnaround from clapped-out banger to red hot wheels for 'Greased Lightnin''. There was also added excitement with clever use of strobe lighting and pyrotechnics.

Overall, it was an accomplished performance.

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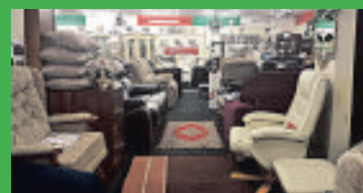
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Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal

The Great Daffodil Appeal is Marie Curie's biggest annual fundraising campaign. The appeal is vital in helping Marie Curie Nurses to provide more free care to people with terminal illnesses in their own homes and in the charity's nine hospices.

Every March millions of people across the UK support our biggest fundraising event of the year by simply giving a small donation to purchase and wear a daffodil pin.

Signing up volunteer collectors: December - February

The Great Daffodil Appeal: March Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal kicks off across the country on 1st March. Volunteer collectors will be out in force throughout the month of March encouraging everyone to give a donation and wear one of the charity's daffodil pins.

All the funds raised by the appeal will help Marie Curie Nurses provide more care for people with terminal illnesses, at the time when they need the most support.

The Great Daffodil Appeal doesn't just raise much-needed funds; it also raises awareness of Marie Curie services and the need for high quality nursing care for people with terminal illnesses.

Marie Curie wants people wherever they live to be able to have a 'good death', provided with the care they want and need, with support available for them and their families. Research shows that currently 63% of people want to be cared for and die at home, yet only 44%, including those in care homes, do this. This is because not enough or the right type of health and social care is available.

Marie Curie enables more people to be cared for and die in the place of choice, surrounded by the people and things they love, and campaigns to ensure that those who are terminally ill have faster access to free social care. As people live longer, increasing numbers of people have long-term conditions requiring more complex support towards the final stages of life.

Despite this, end of life care is an under-researched area. Marie Curie invests in high quality research to provide real benefits to people with terminal illnesses, their carers and families. Marie Curie is the only charity exclusively funding end of life care research and invests around £3million per year in research.

Key facts

- The first Great Daffodil Appeal took place in 1986
- Marie Curie is best known for its network of over 2,000 Marie Curie Nurses, who provide care to patients across the UK, as well as emotional support for their families.

- The charity provided care to more than 38,000 people with terminal illnesses, and is the largest provider of hospice beds outside the NHS

- Since 1986, the Great Daffodil Appeal has raised more than £70 million to help fund the charity's work, enabling Marie Curie Nurses to provide more free hands-on care to people with terminal illnesses in their own homes and in our nine hospices
- In 2013 the Great Daffodil Appeal raised over £7 million

- Last year, the charity had over 75,000 daffodil boxes across the country
- On average, each collector raised £88 last year
- The oldest collector last year was 99 years old

- In March 2014, collectors will be giving out over 9.7 million daffodil pins to supporters in exchange for a donation

For more information contact:

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Marie Curie Cancer Care
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Two reasons to enjoy St Patrick's Day

Clannad/Mary Black, Symphony Hall, Birmingham ST PATRICK'S Day came to the Second City in two servings this year as the Symphony Hall hosted Dubliner Mary Black and Donegal band Clannad.

Veteran Black, who has been singing for more than 30 years, opened with Another Day, a fairly fast number and followed by one from her most recent album Stories from the Steeple, Moun-

tains to the Sea which saw Black really get into her stride. She gave the audience a good range of her repertoire which included All the Fine Young Men about the tragedy of WWI and indeed all wars. She went out, rather appropriately, with Song for Ireland which she sang with genuine emotion.

Clannad, who this year received a life time achievement award at BBC2 Folk Awards, took to the stage opening with the ethereal and atmospheric

Vellum from their new album Nadur and then proceeded to give the eager audience a good mix of old and new starting with another one from the same album Rhapsody nag Crann (Rhapsody of the Trees).

Moya Brennan's voice is just as haunting as the first time they came to major prominence more than three decades ago with the theme from Harry's Game, part of the set.

DANNY FARRAGHER

Dan is the man ready to step up

Jim Causley/Daniel Kirk, Newhampton Folk Club, Wolverhampton COMETH the hour cometh the Dan.

Wolverhampton singer and guitarist Daniel Kirk saved the night when Devon musician Jim Causley had to give in to a cold.

The accordion playing singer tried his best to do his set but his voice just wasn't up to it. Apologising profusely, he had to call it a day after a few songs. It was a shame because underneath his viral attack there was a melodic voice worth listening to. He struggled with opener Polly Vaughan and by the time he got to In the Sidings he had to concede.

So support act Kirk, having already been warmly received by the audience, stepped into the breach. There were no complaints as Kirk is building a reputation on professionalism, talent and a damn good voice. With songs such as Alabama Pines, 3AM, House Carpenter and Riding to New York he made sure everyone got their money's worth.

DANNY FARRAGHER

Reviews



A scene from West End Beatles blockbuster Let It Be

Let It Be a night of Fab Four nostalgia

Let It Be, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham IF this was meant to Please Please Me it certainly did the job.

Let It Be was non-stop entertainment and got everyone out of their seats singing and dancing.

Four mop-heads whose impersonations were spot-on brought Beatlemania back to Birmingham.

These Fab Four reminded everyone, young and old, just how brilliant they were. This spectacular concert was jam-packed with more than 40 of The Beatles greatest hits.

Direct from the West End, the hit show celebrates the legacy of the world's greatest rock 'n' roll band.

It took the audience on a musical journey of the Beatles' meteoric rise, from their humble beginnings in Liverpool's Cavern Club, through the heights of Beatlemania, to their later studio masterpieces, and, of course, Let It Be.

For those who love the Beatles, this show is as about as good as it gets.

Let It Be continues to Saturday.

SUE ATTWATER

A legend reborn at age of 72

Rodriguez, Symphony Hall, Birmingham SIXTO Rodriguez is an enigma. For a man who has only ever released two albums and then disappeared off the radar for the best part of 30 years, it is incredible the following that he has.

He was working on a third album when his record company folded and he disappeared from the music scene. Through a website called The Great Rodriguez Hunt it was found he was still in Detroit and two South Africans brought him back to the world stage. That's how at the age of 72, looking a fragile figure, he was helped on to the Symphony Hall podium. Once he started strumming his guitar and facing up to the microphone he showed remarkable spirit.

The septuagenarian standing there in his suit and top hat gave the crowd what they had come for, his own songs such as Climb Up On My Music and Crucify Your Mind. In his own words: "All I want is to be treated like an ordinary legend."

DANNY FARRAGHER

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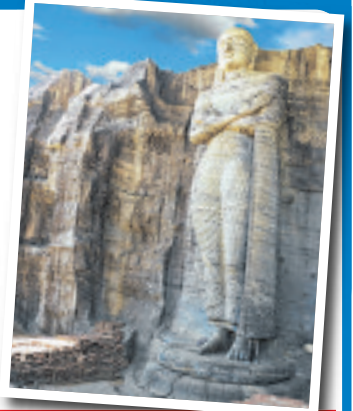
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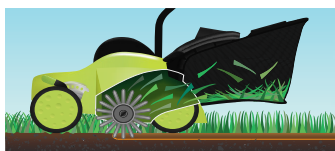
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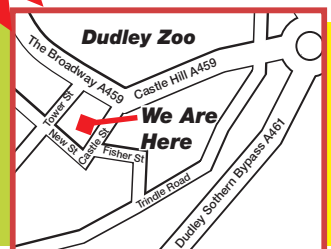
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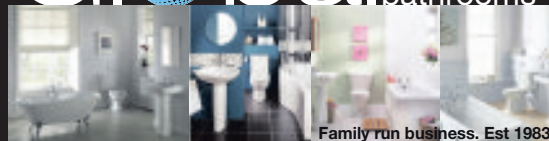
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The Kingswinford Kumon Maths and English Assessment Event will take place at the Dingle Community Centre, Madeley Road on 5 April, between 11am and 2pm. Local parents are invited to pre-book or to drop-in to the event.

For more information, please contact your local Instructor.

Kingswinford Study Centre

Emma Wilkinson

01384 908047

kingswinford@kumoncentre.co.uk

Radio Robin 2 to get a preview

THE Robin 2 in Bilston which features many folk, blues and acoustic artists has added a radio station to its website — Robin 2 Radio. The station can be accessed through the club's homepage, just click on the icon. It's provided through the club's site partners Deliradio, and exclusively features artists who perform at the Bilston club.

The internet radio station has just been created, so it is limited at the moment but will build up over coming weeks and will be an excellent way to preview forthcoming acts.

On the back of their new album folk/rockers Oysterband will be playing the venue tonight supported by Rumours of Spring. Tickets £16, doors open 7.30pm.

Sound of young and old America

THERE are some exciting gigs over the next few days for R&B and pop fans.

On Saturday Miami's Jason Derulo holds court at the NIA. Motown will be heard when The Four Tops and The Temptations are joined by Freda Payne at the NIA on Sunday.

Chart-topping Canadian rapper Drake is at the NIA tonight and tomorrow, while The Wanted will be Glad You Came at the LG Arena tonight, which also the night Gabrielle continues her comeback at Birmingham Town Hall.

Also tonight, The Big Reunion's 911 are at The Institute in Birmingham.

Opera project on day that war came to the Black Country

Musical will rain supreme

FRESH from its success in London's West End, the hit revival of *Singin' In The Rain* splashes into Birmingham this week.

Set in the golden age of Hollywood, this broily twirling classic will be staged at Birmingham Hippodrome until Saturday, April 5. Extra performances have been added due to popular demand.

The show features Maxwell Caulfield as studio boss RF Simpson, Swan Tozer as starlet Lina Lamont and James Leese as silent movie star Don Lockwood — and a downpour on stage! Get ready for such songs as *Make 'Em Laugh*, *Good Morning* and, of course, *Singin' In The Rain*. If sitting in the front row, better wear a sower.

Tickets are priced £16 to £45, available online at www.birminghamhippodrome.com or on 0844 338 5000.



Turn your umbrella upside down to enjoy *Singin' In The Rain* at the Hippodrome

THE NIGHT the horrors of the First World War came to the Black Country will be recalled in a unique community opera, *Zeppelin Dreams*, with three performances at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre tonight and tomorrow.

Part of the theatre's programme to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the war, this production looks at the evening in 1916 when one of the largest German airships ever built got lost in the fog on the way to attack Liverpool's docks and dropped its bombs on the Black Country instead, killing 35 people.

More later died of their injuries. The victims included three generations of one family in Tipton, a courting couple in Bradley and Walsall's mayoress.

This community co-production with English Touring Opera includes an evening performance tonight (Thursday) and two performances tomorrow.

Tickets cost £7.50, from the website at www.grandtheatre.info, by phone on 01902 429212, or in person at the box office in Lichfield Street.

The Grand hosts Lesley Joseph in *naughty girls'* night out musical *Hot Flush* on Saturday.

The Russian State Ballet and Orchestra of Siberia present a selection of ballets at the Grand starting with *Sleeping Beauty* on Sunday at 4pm. There are perfor-

NME tour will showcase the best

A SHOWCASE for three of the best new bands will be headlined by one of New York's finest groups of recent years when the NME Awards Tour 2014 comes to Birmingham next week.

Tuesday's gig has switched from the O2 Academy to Digbeth's Institute, featuring Liverpool's Circa Waves, Brighton garage rock duo Royal Blood and Kettering psychedelic hipsters Temples, whilst NYC's Interpol top the bill.

Other rock gigs include Irish outfit Kodamine at the O2 Academy tonight and Franz Ferdinand at the same venue tomorrow. Punk veterans Stiff Little Fingers are at the Wulfrun Hall tomorrow and The Stranglers are at the O2 Academy on Saturday.

Oscillators and synths celebrated

MASTERS of moody electronics Alison Goldfrapp and Will Gregory have been realising their cinematic ambitions via the *Tales Of Us* film with director Lisa Gunning and a live performance recently beamed to the nation's cinema screens. Goldfrapp will be in the flesh at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Wednesday, March 26.

The Radiophonic Workshop — famed for the Doctor Who theme — come to Birmingham on their first live tour. The Regeneration Tour includes a tribute to fellow electronic music pioneer Delia Derbyshire at the Town Hall on Monday.

Aldersley pupils in the show

mances of Giselle (Monday, 7.30pm) and Swan Lake (Tuesday, 2.30 and 7.30pm). Nostalgic musical *Dreamboats And Petticoats*, featuring hits from the early 1960s and written by Birds Of A Feather team Marks and Gran, is at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday. Another community opera venture, Mack The Knife musical *Brecht and Weill's The Threepenny Opera*, is staged at Birmingham Rep from March 27 to April 12.

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CHOICE



Tom Jones

The Voice UK BBC1, 6.45pm

As much as we love the BBC's answer to The X Factor, at times you need the stamina of Davina McCall to sit through an entire episode, so get plenty of cushions and snacks for this, the first live round of the singing contest. The brilliant Emma Willis and Marvin Humes introduce the action as the remaining dozen acts fight it out for a place in the semi-final. After three acts in each team have performed, Tom Jones, Will.i.am, Kylie Minogue and Ricky Wilson will choose one act to go straight through to the next stage.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.45** Davina: Beyond Breaking Point. (R) **3.45** Reflex. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.25** Sport Relief: The Best Bits.

6.45 **The Voice UK.** Emma Willis and Marvin Humes present the first live round of the singing contest, in which the 12 remaining acts perform for a place in the semi-final.

8.40 **The National Lottery Live.** Kate Garraway reveals the results of the Lotto and the Thunderball, with music by Little Mix.

8.50 **The Voice UK Results.** Emma Willis and Marvin Humes present as Kylie Minogue, Tom Jones, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson lose one act each, leaving them with just two for next week's semi-final.

9.25 **Casualty.** Ethan's conscience is tested when an activist asks him to hide his secrets, while Rita and Zoe help a desperate prisoner repair his relationship with his mother.

10.15 **BBC News.** Weather.

10.30 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Chelsea v Arsenal at Stamford Bridge and Cardiff City v Liverpool at the Cardiff City Stadium; National Lottery Update.

12.05 **The Football League Show.** **1.25** Weather. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.15** Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. (R) **6.45** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **7.15** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **7.45** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **8.15** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **8.45** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **9.15** Lie on Earth. (R) **10.10** The Nature of Britain. (R) **11.00** Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain. (R) **11.30** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **12.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **1.00** Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers. **1.05** Gregory Peck: Talking Pictures. (R) **1.35** Film: Spellbound. (1945) **3.25** Ingrid Bergman: Talking Pictures. (R) **4.00** Film: Notorious. (1946) **5.40** Flog It! Trade Secrets.

6.40 **Don't Panic! The Dad's Army** Story. Victoria Wood celebrates the comedy. (R) **7.30** **Dad's Army.** Walker is accused of treason. (R) **8.00** **The Perfect Morecambe & Wise.** Glenda Jackson dons a ballgown to bring a touch of class to proceedings.

8.30 **The Plantagenets.** Robert Bartlett tells the story of England's longest-ruling royal dynasty, beginning by examining how Henry II forged an empire after ascending the throne in 1154. (R) **9.30** **QI XL.** Extended edition. **10.15** **Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle.** The comedian explores more themes. **10.45** **Glasgow: Big Night Out.** The city through the eyes of acts who have performed there. (R) **11.45** **Film: Savage Grace.** (2007) Fact-based drama, starring Julianne Moore. **1.15** **Film: The Secret in Their Eyes.** (2009) **3.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.45** Animals. (R) **6.55** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.15** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.20** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Dinner Date. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **12.00** The Chase. (R) **1.00** The Unforgettable Noel Gordon. (R) **1.30** Midsomer Murders. (R) **3.30** Film: Kindergarten Cop. (1990) **5.35** Regional Programme; Weather. **5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 **You've Been Framed! A-Z of Animals.** Harry Hill takes an alphabetical look at videos from the animal kingdom, and targets merry mishaps pertaining to all 26 letters. **7.00** **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** The duo welcome presenter Christine Bleakley, and are assisted in their duties by guest announcers the Muppets. Little Ant and Dec also meet Samuel L. Jackson and Scarlett Johansson.

8.25 **The Cube.** A personal trainer tackles a series of tough challenges, from agility tests to skills trials, aiming to win a jackpot of £250,000. Phillip Schofield hosts. **9.25** **The Americans.** Elizabeth receives a distress signal, and Philip tries to work out what the consequences of their last operation will be for their family. **10.20** **ITV News.** Weather. **10.35** **Film: Bridge Jones: The Edge of Reason.** (2004) Romantic comedy sequel, with Renee Zellweger. **12.35** Jackpot247. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Close. **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Trans World Sport. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.25** Frasier. (R) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.45** How I Met Your Mother. **11.15** How I Met Your Mother. **11.45** The Simpsons. (R) **12.15** The Simpsons. (R) **12.40** Undercover Boss USA. (R) **1.40** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.15** **Come Dine with Me.** Boe Oleye hosts the final dinner party in north London. (R)

6.45 **Channel 4 News.** **7.05** **Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.** The team investigates an attack on students at S.H.I.E.L.D.'s academy of science and technology, while Coulson and May meet a former agent who reveals startling information about Skye. (R) **8.00** **Hostages.** Duncan locks the Sanders family in a room for the day while he and his team head to New York to eliminate the snipers targeting President Kincaid. Starring Toni Collette. **9.00** **Film: Rush Hour 3.** (2007) An assassination attempt sees mismatched detectives Lee and Carter off on a mission to take on Triad gangs in Paris. Action comedy sequel, starring Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker. **10.40** **Film: Daredevil.** (2003) Comic-book adventure, starring Ben Affleck. **12.40** **Film: Election.** (1999) **2.25** The Good Wife. (R) **3.15** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.15** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **10.30** It Takes a Thief to Catch a Thief. (R) **11.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.30** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.30** Film: The Bridge at Remagen. (1969) Second World War adventure, starring George Segal. **3.45** Film: Stone Cold. (2005) Detective drama, starring Tom Selleck. **5.30** Film: Columbo: Old Fashioned Murder. (1976) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **6.50** **Longmire.** New series. Crime drama, starring Robert Taylor as Wyoming sheriff Walt Longmire. Returning to duty after the death of his wife, Walt is drawn into a murder investigation. **7.40** **NCIS.** A blind man unwittingly photographs evidence of a murder, leading Jethro and the team to the corpse of a petty officer who was stabbed with a knife left at the scene. (R) **8.35** **NCIS.** Gibbs is made acting director while Jenny is attending an overseas conference, but decides to ignore his duties and instead investigate the murder of a man found dead in a taxi. (R) **9.25** **5 Live Weekend.** **9.30** **Live International Boxing.** Kid Galahad v Sergio Prado, plus the two remaining quarter-finals in the light-heavyweight Maxi Nutrition Knockout tournament, all from Ponds Forge in Sheffield. **12.00** **SuperCasino.** **3.10** **The Drive-By Slayers: Born to Kill?** (R) **4.00** **Wildlife SOS.** (R) **4.25** **Make It Big.** (R) **4.50** **The Funky Valley Show.** (R) **5.00** **Angels of Jarm.** (R) **5.20** **Angels of Jarm.** (R) **5.30** **The Funky Valley Show.** (R) **5.40** **Hana's Helpline.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** Great TV Mistakes **7.30** Doctor Who **8.20** Top Gear: Burma Special **9.25** Film: Lara Croft: Tomb Raider - The Cradle of Life (2003) **11.10** Family Guy **BBC Four** **7.00** David Attenborough's First Life **8.00** Shipwrecks: Britain's Sunk in History **9.00** Inspector De Luca **10.50** The Genius of David Bowie **11.50** Lou Reed Remembered **ITV2** **3.25** Britain's Got More Talent: Singers & Dancers **4.25** Film: Babe: Pig in the City (1998) **6.15** Film: About a Boy (2002) **8.15** Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Crazy Beaches **11.20** Educating Joey Essex **ITV3** **3.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot **4.55** Widescreen Morse **6.55** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** A Touch of Frost **ITV4** **3.15** Film: The Far Country (1954) **5.15** Film: The Battle of Midway (1976) **7.55** Hornblower. Conclusion of the seafaring adventure, starring Ioan Gruffudd. Last in the series. **10.00** Film: Carlito's Way (1993) **E4** **4.00** How I Met Your Mother **5.00** 2 Broke Girls **6.10** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00** Film: Lake Placid (1999) **10.40** Rude Tube **11.45** The Big Bang Theory **Film4** **2.55** Carry On Behind (1975) **4.40** Escape to Victory (1981) **7.00** Lemnys Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (2004) **9.00** Priest (2011) **10.45** Alien 3 (1992)

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CHOICE



Prince Harry

Harry's South Pole Heroes

ITV, 8pm
Prince Harry and his band of heroes are certainly braver than us – in fact watching him and the wounded servicemen and women from the comfort of our armchair with a warm cup of coffee leaves us suitably ashamed of ourselves. In this episode, the Walking with the Wounded South Pole Allied Challenge 2013 gets under way, and the teams prepare to ski for nine hours a day, hauling 80 kilos of kit in temperatures as low as -40C. But no amount of training could have prepared them for the frostbite, sores and altitude sickness.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News. **Weather.** **1.15** The Sport Relief Games Show. **3.15** Alex Against the Rock. **3.45** Deadly on Mission: Pole to Pole. **4.15** Regional Programme. **4.45** Songs of Praise. **5.20** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.05 Blandings. Connie plays matchmaker.

6.35 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison heads to the beaches of Norfolk, which suffered its biggest storm surge in 60 years in December. She also drops in at the RSPB's reserve in Snettisham. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team visit Exeter Cathedral, where items include a table apparently used by Bonnie Prince Charlie and artwork painted by Edward VII as a child.

9.00 The Musketeers. The quartet escort the queen to a forest pool renowned for its powers of fertility – but when an assassin strikes they escape to a convent, where Aramis meets a face from the past.

10.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day 2. Tottenham Hotspur v Southampton.

11.25 Film: *Butterfly on a Wheel*. (2007) Thriller, starring Pierce Brosnan.

12.55 Weatherwise. **1.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: Angels One Five. (1953) **7.35** Mountain. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **9.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.15** Michel Roux's Service. (R) **1.15** Michel Roux's Service. (R) **2.15** Ex-S. **2.45** Film: I Know Where I'm Going! (1945) **4.15** Flog It! (R) **5.00** Collectaholics. (R)

6.00 The Hairy Bikers: Restoration Road Trip. Si King and Dave Myers help rebuild an early traction engine before learning how it revolutionised farming, and restore a rare barrel once used to transport coal on Britain's canals. (R)

7.00 Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom. The team splits up to search for tigers. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 Lambing Live: Farming Families. New series. Kate Humble and Adam Henson revisit people featured in previous series.

9.00 Louis Theroux's LA Stories: City of Dogs. New series. Different aspects of Los Angeles, beginning with the city's neglected and feral dogs.

10.00 Mock the Week Looks Back at Royals. Another selection of material from the show's archives. (R)

10.30 Line of Duty. Fleming remains determined to prove Denton had a role in the ambush. Last in the series. (R)

11.30 Film: London River. (2009) Drama, with Brenda Blethyn.

12.55 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.50** Holby City. (R) **2.50** Silk. (R) **3.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter. (R) **6.35** Matt Hatter. (R) **6.45** Animals. (R) **6.55** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.15** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.20** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder. She Wrote. (R) **10.30** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **11.25** ITV News: Weather. **11.35** The Unforgettable Dudley Moore. (R) **12.05** Agatha Christie's Marple. (R) **2.00** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **2.25** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **3.10** River Monsters. (R) **4.15** Film: The Spy Who Loved Me. (1977)

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News: Weather. **7.00** Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

8.00 Harry's South Pole Heroes. Part two of two. Prince Harry embarks on his expedition in the Antarctic with four injured British soldiers as part of the Walking with the Wounded South Pole Allied Challenge.

9.00 Mr Selfridge. Harry is desperate to clear his name. Last in the series.

10.00 ITV News at Ten. Weather.

10.15 You Saw Them Here First. With Patsy Kensit, Mark Benton, David Threlfall, Tony Robinson and Kimberley Walsh. (R)

11.15 Premiership Rugby Union.

12.15 The Store. **2.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** News on 4. **7.30** Challenge Wanka Triathlon. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.35** Secret Eaters. (R) **1.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.35** How I Met Your Mother. **3.05** How I Met Your Mother. **3.35** The Simpsons. (R) **4.05** The Simpsons. (R) **4.35** Deal or No Deal. **5.40** Channel 4 News. **6.10** Film: Rio. (2011) Premiere. A domesticated bird gets lost in Rio de Janeiro, and has to learn to fly to get back to his owner. Animated comedy, with the voices of Jesse Eisenberg and Anne Hathaway.

8.00 The Million Pound Necklace: Inside Boodles. Documentary following exclusive jewellers Boodles, as they launch their most expensive collection yet, created from a set of rare Colombian emeralds.

9.00 Film: The Tourist. (2010) A woman tries to trick the police into thinking a tourist is her criminal lover with his appearance surgically changed. Romantic thriller, with Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie.

10.55 Film: Dogma. (1999) A lapsed Catholic must stop two fallen angels returning to Heaven or it will mean the end of the world. Comedy fantasy, starring Matt Damon, Ben Affleck and Linda Fiorentino.

1.20 The Good Wife. (R) **2.05** The Hotel. (R) **3.00** Secret Removers. A husband arranges a surprise for his wife. (R) **4.00** SuperScrimpers. (R) **4.55** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.50** River Cottage Bites. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowerbuds. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Wake Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Mio Mao. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **8.15** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.50** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Super Samurai. (R) **10.35** Access. **10.50** Film: Arthur and the Invisibles. (2006) **12.30** Film: Hoodwinked. (2005) **2.05** Film: Zoom. (2006) **3.50** Film: The Witches. (1990) **5.35** 5 News Weekend. **5.40** Film: The Great Escape. (1963)

9.00 The First Great Escape. Documentary examining an escape by British officers from the Holzminnen POW camp in July 1918 that inspired the famous breakout from Stalag Luft III in March 1944.

10.00 The Great Escape: Revealed. The true story of the famous POW breakout.

11.00 Film: A Bridge Too Far. (1977) Fact-based drama recreating a Second World War campaign to capture a series of strategically important bridges. Starring Dirk Bogarde.

2.25 SuperCasino. **3.10** Dangerous Drivers' School. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm.

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 The Voice UK **8.55** The Voice UK Results **9.30** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Bluestone 42 **11.15** American Dad!

BBC Four
7.00 Magnificent Machines: The Golden Age of the British Sports Car **8.00** Mark Lawson talks to Joanna Trollope **9.00** Martin Amis: England **10.00** Some Football Managers with Jokes **10.30** Film: You Will Be My Son (2011)

ITV2
2.15 Film: Honey (2003) **4.10** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **5.40** Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **7.50** Film: Whip It (2009) **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.50** Party Wreck Around the World **11.50** The Big Reunion 2014

ITV3
3.40 Rosemary & Thyme **4.45** A Touch of Frost **7.00** Film: Mamma Mia! (2008) Musical comedy, starring Meryl Streep. **11.15** Cracker

ITV4
3.05 Film: Kelly's Heroes (1970) **6.00** Storage Wars **8.00** Film: Get Carter (1971) **11.20** Hell on Wheels

E4
3.30 The Tomorrow People **4.30** Troy: Best Bits **5.35** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.05** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Dr Doolittle (1998) **9.40** The Big Bang Theory **10.10** How I Met Your Mother **10.40** My Mad Fat Diary **11.45** Rules of Engagement

Film4
2.35 Only You (1994) **4.45** 27 Dresses (2008) **6.55** The Truman Show (1998) **9.50** This Is England (2006) **11.05** Silent House (2011)

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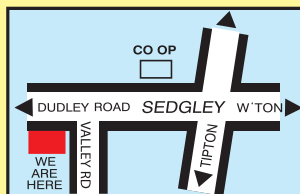
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Film Choices

MONDAY

The Man Behind the Gun, Channel 4, 1pm
A soldier poses as a schoolteacher on a mission to root out a band of insurrectionists who are plotting to break away from the Union and reintroduce slavery. Before long, he starts to fall for a fellow teacher, but suspects his rival for her affection may be involved with the militants. Western, starring Randolph Scott. (1953)

TUESDAY

Back to You and Me, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A doctor returns home after many years for a school reunion and tries to rebuild her relationship with her estranged mother, whom she has not seen since her father's death. The experience proves both enlightening and surprising, as she discovers her childhood sweetheart is now a lawyer, and a dark secret is revealed. Drama, starring Lisa Hartman Black, Dale Midkiff and Rue McClanahan. (2005)

WEDNESDAY

Murder on the 13th Floor, Channel 5, 3.20pm
A woman discovers her husband is having an affair with their live-in nanny and plans revenge. The childminder discovers she and the couple's son have been locked in their 13th-floor apartment along with two hitmen hired to kill her. Thriller, starring Tessa Thompson. (2012)



Scent of a Woman, Friday, ITV, 10.35pm

Vicky Cristina Barcelona, Channel 4, 12am
Two Americans on a break in Spain encounter a seductive painter, who invites them to spend time with him at his home in Ovidio. Though the more timid of the pair is initially reluctant, her free-spirited friend persuades her to come along, resulting in a series of romantic encounters and an explosive experience with the artist's ex-wife. Woody Allen's comedy, with Scarlett Johansson and Rebecca Hall. (2008)

THURSDAY

My Neighbour's Keeper, Channel 5, 3.10pm
Kate works in a home for disadvantaged children and longs for kids of her own, but is unable to conceive. When her best friend is murdered, Kate adopts her two youngsters, but it is not long before those around her question whether she had a hand in their mother's death to gain the family she always wanted. Drama, starring Laura Harring and Linden Ashby. (2007)

FRIDAY

Scent of a Woman, ITV, 10.35pm
A blind, hard-drinking war veteran pays a timid college student to accompany him on a weekend break in the big city, where he plans to make the most of life. However, the youngster is shocked to learn that his new friend plans to kill himself. Comedy drama, starring an Oscar-winning Al Pacino. (1992)

Pick of the Week

New series will prove to be far from child's play

Praise be – the Reverend Adam Smallbone is back at last. Two years is a long time between sermons – here's hoping TV's best-loved vicar has spent that time away from our screens coming up with inspiring new subjects and honing his delivery.

Let's face it, his parish could use a few more devotees – inner-city London was always going to be a tough gig, and despite his best efforts, Adam hasn't really managed to win over the locals, unless you count unstable Mick, alcoholic lost soul Colin and lovesick Adoha.

They're all back for this third series, which Tom Hollander, who co-created the sitcom with writer James Wood, says was a dream to make.

"I found it very comforting and reassuring and it's very lovely to do something that you have done before which people have enjoyed," he remarks. "There was none of the stress you normally have playing a new part where you go, 'Oh, I wonder if it works if I do this or if I

do that' whereas, because we've done two series there's a relaxation of putting on a, you know, favourite old cardigan or something."

Also back is Olivia Colman. She may have become Britain's premier TV actress since the last run of Rev was aired, thanks to performances in Broadchurch, Flun, Accused and The Thirteenth Tale, but she found time in her hectic diary for this.

"There's something comforting about knowing we're back because people liked it, so we're doing something right," she says. "It's a shame you have to do anything on the first day. It'd be nice if it was a write-off because you're just chatting and catching up. It's lovely."

There's about to be a new addition to the couple's lives when we meet him again – Alex gives birth to their long-awaited first child, a girl, in dramatic circumstances.

"The baby belongs to the Parish suddenly," explains Colman. "So, everyone who is knocking on the door anyway is now also knocking

on the door to look after the baby, which is very irritating to Alex."

There's also little time for paternity leave, because Adam's parish duties continue to weigh heavy on him. In the first episode, he joins forces with an Imam in an attempt to improve the local community, but is left wondering if his new colleague has a hidden agenda.

Also giving poor Adam a headache are the new Area Dean and Diocesan secretary who seem to have big but destructive plans for St Saviour's.

Kayvan Novak, Joanna Scanlan and Vicki Pepperdine guest star as the newcomers, and the general consensus of opinion from Hollander and Colman is that they're "brilliant".

Colman perhaps sums up Rev's appeal best when she describes it as: "well-written, beautiful and the people are lovable and flawed. It's got a soft underbelly and a humility which is easy to love."

And long may that continue.



Olivia Colman and Tom Hollander star in Rev, Monday, BBC2, 10pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

**The Widower
ITV, 9pm**

Watching a drama based on a true story can be an odd experience. Chances are you already know what the outcome is, so where does the tension come from? Thankfully, the screenplay for this three-part was penned by Bafta-winner Jeff Pope, who's an expert at turning real cases into gripping drama by making viewers wonder how characters will get out of certain situations – or when they're going to be caught. In this second episode, Malcolm Webster is now settled back in Scotland with his second wife Felicity and their son. He's still plotting to murder her, and after his first scheme is thwarted, comes up with a new plan...

**My Spiral into Debt Hell
Channel 5, 9pm**

It seems everywhere you turn these days a payday loan company is trying to flog you their services with another gimmicky advert. However, after watching this powerful documentary, even if you were slightly tempted before, you'll think again. Household debt is at record levels and this programme meets people who have suffered financial disaster – and it makes for shocking viewing. Among them is Debra from County Durham who thought it would be simple enough to borrow £500 for a computer – the reality was that her loan would turn into a 10-year nightmare and end up costing her £88,000 as well as her home. Plus, a city boy who's paying the price for his lavish lifestyle, and a man who blames his bank for his £42,000 debt.

TUESDAY

**The Missing
Channel 4, 10pm**

It's a frightening statistic, but every two minutes, someone in Britain goes missing. Fortunately, the majority are found again within 48 hours, but 2,000 a year simply vanish, leaving a host of unanswered questions behind. This moving documentary meets three families who have had to deal with the disappearance of a loved one – a brother, a husband, and a mother. In all three cases, it was completely out-of-character for the missing person to have simply left without contacting anyone, and the police are as baffled as everyone else. The programme finds that the friends and relatives often feel as if they are in limbo, while some have gone to extraordinary lengths to try to bring the missing person home again.

WEDNESDAY

**Big Star's Little Star
ITV, 8pm**

Don't ever work with children or animals – that's the golden rule in telly, they say, as no-one likes unpredictability. But the leading lights behind this superb series understand that actually, it's the little ones who make the best television – because of their

unpredictability. For the producers behind this game show, the youth are comedy gold, as Stephen Mulhern grills them about their celebrity parents and hopes they will spill their deepest secrets. First up, are sporting stars (and they are good sports for putting themselves through this) 2003 Rugby World Cup winner Ben Cohen, 2000 Olympic champion in the heptathlon Denise Lewis and footballer Neil 'Razor' Ruddock. A few laughs at the celebs' expense all in the name of charity never hurt anyone...

**MasterChef
BBC1, 9pm**

For those of us who struggle to recognise one end of a spatula from the other, the Beeb's signature culinary effort has kept us entertained for years. But now that MasterChef has hit its tenth series, we're left with little choice but to sit up and learn a thing or two, as John Torode and Gregg Wallace return with a new batch of amateur cooks keen to prove their worth. The first six hopefuls take on a new challenge as they prepare their Calling Card, a dish which showcases their talent. But the group are soon whittled down, and the decision lies with John and Gregg as to who will reach the quarter-final.



Masterchef, Wednesday, BBC1, 9pm

THURSDAY

**Saltin' the Battlefield
BBC2, 9pm**

Ooh, BBC2, you're spoiling us! Last week viewers were treated to Turks & Caicos, the eagerly awaited second part of David Hare's trilogy of dramas about British agent Johnny Worricker. Hats off to the casting genius who teamed up Bill Nighy and Christopher Walken for that one. Now here's the final instalment of Worricker's story although, disappointingly, it's minus the wonderful Walken. This time, Worricker and Margaret Tyrrell are on the run across Europe, with M15 snapping at their heels. Neither of them had expected life in exile to be so difficult, so Worricker makes a decision that will change his life forever – it's time to confront the all-powerful Prime Minister, Alec Beasley. Only one man can win their battle of wits – but which one?

FRIDAY

**A Very British Renaissance
BBC2, 9.30pm**

If the latest edition of this documentary is anything to go by, Elizabethan England was an exciting place to be. The country had cut its ties with Catholic Europe, and was now fervently Protestant – at least on the surface. Poets were writing in codes, while art and architecture conveyed secret meanings via mysterious symbols. Dazzling works were also created by Elizabethans who suddenly felt confident thanks to their nation's standing in the world. Among the treasures showcased here by presenter James Fox are exquisite miniatures painted by Nicholas Hilliard, and the earliest surviving example of a globe, created by Emery Molyneux.

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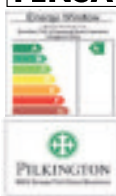
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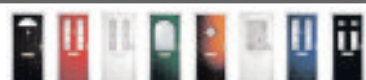
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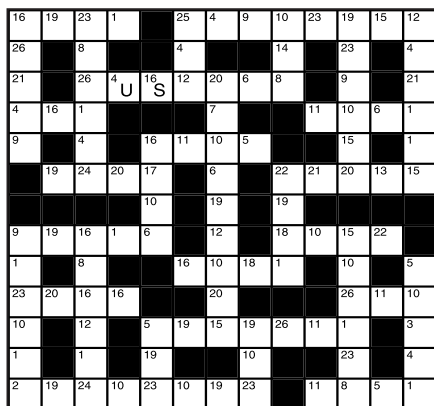
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DID YOU KNOW

14 MILLION PEOPLE READ A LOCAL NEWSPAPER BUT DO NOT READ A NATIONAL NEWSPAPER. SOURCE: BMRB/TG1 2011

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
G	Y	M	L	I	T	Q	P	F	C	J	X	R
E	U	Z	O	K	A	D	W	B	H	S	V	N

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

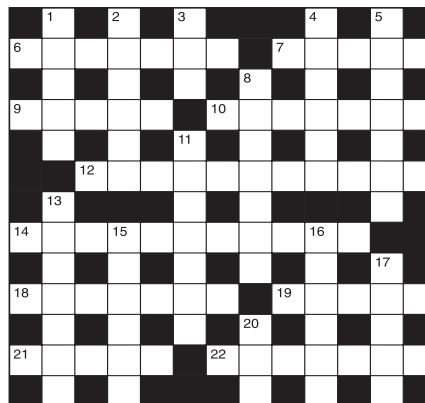
Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. He decides to make a rarebit (7)
 7. Soft melodies for couples (5)
 9. Appears to make sound joints (5)
 10. He's nice and foreign (7)
 12. Intelligence in the making (11)
 14. It won't keep you fully occupied (4,3)
 18. One needs a couple of rings to get this number (7)
 19. Turner writes articles in French and English (5)
 21. Separate verse form (5)
 22. His initial confusion was amusing (7)

Down

1. In a small way you'll find me prepared to fight (5)
 2. He may fly from Marian (6)
 3. Carve a name, we hear (3)
 4. Edible wood? (6)
 5. Don't stop, although a person's upset (5,2)
 8. My niche, a cleft in a cliff? (7)
 11. A fir-cone, perhaps, seen in the wood (7)
 13. Greetings that affect us least (7)
 15. I tried a more orderly arrangement (6)
 16. A speaker who is skilled at splitting alternatives (6)
 17. What he does is appropriate (5)
 20. Fit for a little physical training (3)



Quick Clues:

Across

6. Watery (7)
 7. Narrative (5)
 9. Devoutness (5)
 10. Advent (7)
 12. Incitement (11)
 14. Disbelief (11)
 18. Cleanness (7)
 19. Amusing (5)
 21. Confuse (5)
 22. Aid (7)

Down

1. Fit out (5)
 2. Improved (6)
 3. Owning (3)
 4. Rigorous (6)
 5. Producer (7)
 8. Small thorn (7)
 11. Greed (7)
 13. Contain (7)
 15. Seldom (6)
 16. Three times (6)
 17. Mock (5)
 20. Shed (3)

Sudoku

	1	3		6		2		
8	7		5		4			6
			8		1			
9	5		1					
	8	4		3		7	6	
				5		1	9	
			6					
	9	8	4		7		3	1
2					6	7		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	6	3	1	9	8	2	5	4
4	9	2	3	6	5	1	7	8
8	5	1	2	4	7	6	3	9
5	4	8	9	7	6	3	2	1
9	1	6	5	3	2	8	4	7
3	2	7	4	8	1	5	9	6
1	3	9	8	2	4	7	6	5
6	8	4	7	5	3	9	1	2
2	7	5	8	1	9	4	6	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Detonation; 7 Aroma; 8 Toddler; 10 Long shot; 11 Harp; 13 Recipe; 15 Damsel; 17 Aces; 18 Reserved; 21 Earnest; 22 Dense; 23 By and large. Down: 1 Drown; 2 Transient; 3 Notion; 4 To-do; 5 Orleans; 6 Tailor made; 9 Rope ladder; 12 Lavender; 14 Clearly; 16 Dental; 19 Venue; 20 Lean. QUICK - Across: 1 Particular; 7 Aired; 8 Special; 10 Dismayed; 11 Ring; 13 Employ; 15 Street; 17 Drop; 18 Well-do-to; 21 Diploma; 22 Avers; 23 Prospectus. Down: 1 Parts; 2 Radiator; 3 Instep; 4 Used; 5 Asinine; 6 Hard-headed; 9 Lighthouse; 12 Stalwart; 14 Prosper; 16 Relate; 19 Omens; 20 Toss.



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Detached five-bedroom house with good views



A DETACHED five-bedroomed home in Harborne Road, Warley Woods, is for sale through Derek Spires Estate Agents at £440,000.

With gas central heating and majority double glazing, it has a porch, entrance hall, lounge. There is a conservatory with French doors to the garden, dining room and French doors to the conservatory, pantry, cloakroom and kitchen/breakfast room incorporating a four-burner gas hob with extractor hood over and integrated oven and ceramic floor tiling. There is also a lobby, integral side garage to the ground floor.

Upstairs is an en suite master bedroom with walk-in wardrobe, bedroom two which has extensive views, three further bedrooms and a bathroom with a white suite including a Jacuzzi panelled bath.

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An impressive home in West Bromwich

AN IMPRESSIVE three-storey six-bedroomed detached property in Heath Lane, West Bromwich, is for sale through Bartrams at £299,950.

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There is a first-floor landing with WC and bathroom and three bedrooms, second floor with bathroom/wetroom and three bedrooms. There is a large rear garden with a paved patio, lawn, shed, and access to front with off-road parking for three to four cars and a garage. Contact Bartrams on 0121 601 9370 or visit the www.bartrams.com website.



PTN ESTATES Residential Sales & Lettings



Nick Westwood - Sales & Valuations Manager

Our sales department at PTN Estates has got off to a flying start already and really goes to show how exciting this year is going to be for the local property market.

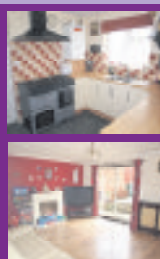
We have been pleasantly surprised by the demand for appraisals in our first month with many homeowners planning to move this summer. There appears to be a great amount of positivity out there which is brilliant to see and with Easter around the corner, now is definitely the right time to think about moving.

If you live in Brierley Hill, Dudley, Stourbridge or any of the surrounding areas and are considering putting your home up for sale, why not contact us to arrange a free appraisal.



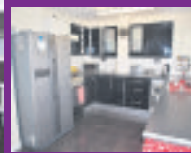
Gayfield Avenue, "Withymoor", Brierley Hill - £160,000

Situated on "Withymoor Village" and offering easy access to local amenities, this good sized detached family home needs to be viewed to be appreciated. In brief there is an entrance hall, guest WC, three reception rooms, four bedrooms, a bathroom, front & rear gardens, a driveway & garage.



Mousehall Farm Road, Brierley Hill - £110,000

Situated on the Caledonia, this well presented terraced home is handy for amenities and would be a great first home or investment. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, accommodation comprises entrance hall, modern kitchen/diner, spacious lounge, three bedrooms and bathroom as well as having front & rear gardens.



Larkfield Mews, Brierley Hill - £130,000

Situated only a stones throw away from a selection of schools, the Merry Hill Centre and other good amenities, this modern home would make a great first time purchase or investment and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN.



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LESS THAN
1 WEEK!**



Delph Road, Brierley Hill - £135,000

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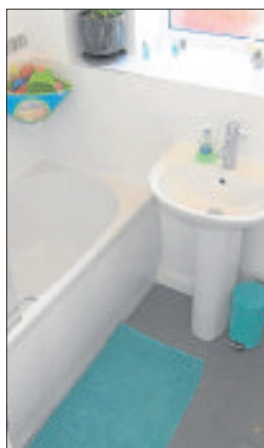
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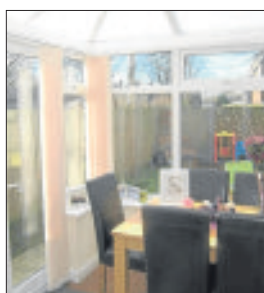
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It has an entrance hall with stairs to the landing, ground-floor WC, lounge, conservatory, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. There are pleasant gardens and off-road parking.



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A most attractive, well presented two bedroom miners cottage located on The Straits, Lower Gornal in a popular residential area.

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Living accommodation comprises of lounge, fitted kitchen and diner, two bedrooms with feature fireplaces and bathroom. The exterior has a large detached garage and off road parking, outside patio area and a lovely lengthy south facing garden.

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Dudley
Burton Road

- Three bedrooms
- Kitchen with appliances
- GCH and part DG

£525pcm



- Downstairs bathroom
- Energy Rating - D
- Available immediately



Sedgley
North One Mews

- Two bed apartment
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- GCH and DG

£495pcm



- Allocated parking
- Energy Rating - B
- Sedgley office



Brierley Hill
Columbus Avenue

- Two bed apartment
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- Master bedroom with ensuite
- Energy Rating - C

£495pcm



Brierley Hill
Commonside

- Two bed detached home
- Central heated
- Accommodation
- Bathroom with shower

£450pcm



Kingswinford
Ragees Road

- Charming one bed ground floor studio flat
- Lounge with feature fireplace
- Fully Furnished
- Bathroom with shower cubicle
- Double glazed throughout
- Energy Rating - D

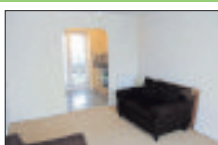
£350pcm



Tipton
Potters Brook

- First floor purpose built apartment
- Two bedrooms
- DG and GCH

£450pcm



- Allocated parking
- Energy Rating - B
- Available immediately

Tipton
0121 520 2255

Willenhall

01902 631151

Bloxwich

01922 478104

Wednesfield

01902 732324

Wednesbury

0121 505 1818

Bilston

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Coseley
Yew Tree Lane

- Two bed apartment
- Kitchen with gas hob
- GCH and DG
- Bathroom with bath and shower
- Energy Rating - B
- Available immediately

£425pcm



Coseley
Redwood Road

- One bed flat
- Ground floor
- Fitted kitchen
- UPVC double glazed
- Energy Rating - D
- Wednesfield office

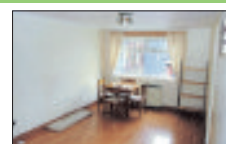
£375pcm



Coseley
Castle Street

- Two bed first floor flat
- Electric heated and DG
- Unfurnished
- Communal car parking
- Energy Rating - D
- Available April

£375pcm



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K.Stuart Swash

PROPERTY AUCTION - 1st April 2014



12, CHAPEL COURT, CHAPEL STREET, PENSNETT

Immaculately presented Second Floor Flat within a lovely location
(access via Main Entrance rear of St. James' Church Hall)

Private Hallway, large Lounge, well appointed Kitchen and Bathroom, large Double Bedroom. EPC: E53

Guide: £58,000 / £63,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY 21st & 22nd MARCH @ 10.00 am



16 BATE STREET, LANESFIELD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Very smart and spacious Three Bedroomed Bungalow

with big Kitchen, 22ft. Lounge / Diner.
Modern appointments throughout.
Garage, attractive Garden. EPC: D57

Guide: £118,000 / £123,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY 21st & 22nd MARCH @ 11.45 am



80 BIRCHES BARN ROAD, BRADMORE

In popular residential district, large Three Bed Semi needing some upgrade
20ft. Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Cloakroom, Bathroom. Gas CH.

EPC: E50

Guide: £80,000 / £85,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY
21st & 22nd MARCH @ 10.45 am



19 PROSSER STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON

End Terraced on large corner plot with big Outbuilding.

Hall, Two Reception, smart Kitchen and Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Gas CH., Walled Garden. 27ft. Outbuilding. EPC: E42

Guide: £57,000 / £62,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY
21st & 22nd MARCH @ 11.45 am



49 KENELM ROAD, COSELEY, BILSTON

with pleasant outlook towards canal at rear

Three Bedroomed Semi with Gas CH, Through Lounge / Diner, extended Kitchen, Bathroom, Garden at rear, off-road Parking to front. EPC: E52

Guide: £62,000 / £65,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY
21st & 22nd MARCH @ 11.00 am



209 BIRMINGHAM ROAD, BLAKENHALL, WOLVERHAMPTON

Conveniently located large Three Bed Mid Terraced

Two Reception, Kitchen, Bathroom, Gas CH, uPVC windows. EPC: D62

Guide: £63,000 / £68,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY
21st & 22nd MARCH @ 10.00 am



LAND AT OLD STAFFORD ROAD, CROSS GREEN, COVEN HEATH

An attractive plot of Land abutting the Staffs. & Worcs. Canal towpath (Bridge No. 71). Vehicular access and with large Mobile Home - Mains Water and Electricity. Private Drainage. Approx. 100ft. road frontage

Guide: £38,000 / £43,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY 21st & 22nd MARCH @ 12.45 pm

Please Register for Catalogue

Viewings of all lots at own risk. Please note viewings are at times specified so should you arrive late you may find that your time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the viewing schedule.

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GORNAL WOOD



HIMLEY ROAD

CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED BAY FRONTED DETACHED PROPERTY!! A double glazed, gas centrally heated detached property comprising to the ground floor entrance hall, cloakroom, dining room, lounge has open plan access into the fitted kitchen having integrated gas hob with extractor hood above, built in oven, conservatory, landing, four bedrooms, en-suite to the master and a family bathroom/w.c. Externally there is a driveway to the front leading to the garage and rear garden. EPC RATING AWAITED.

£265,000 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

SEDGLEY



DUDLEY ROAD

Two bedroom bay fronted semi detached bungalow in a popular residential location viewing recommended. This double glazed and gas central heated two bedroom semi detached bungalow comprising of entrance porch, entrance hall, two bedrooms, shower room, kitchen/diner and lounge. Externally there is a garden to the front and enclosed rear garden along with off road parking. EPC - d

£160,000 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

DUDLEY



PRIORY ROAD

CONSIDERABLY EXTENDED!! An extended bay fronted semi detached property comprising front & extended reception rooms, extended dining room, extended kitchen, landing, two extended bedrooms, three further bedrooms & house bathroom. Externally overlooking Priory Park, rear garden, garage & drive. EPC - C.

£160,000 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

OAKHAM



OAKHAM DRIVE

IMPROVED BAY FRONTED SEMI DETACHED, VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!!!!!! A gas centrally heated & double glazed bay fronted semi detached property comprising to the ground floor entrance porch, hallway, lounge/dining areas, fitted kitchen, conservatory, landing, three bedrooms, loft room, bathroom. Externally having a detached location, extensive rear garden and driveway. EPC rating awaited.

£159,950 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

LOWER GORNAL



GROSVENOR ROAD

A three bedroom dormer bungalow demanding an early viewing. This double glazed & gas centrally heated dormer bungalow comprises entrance hall, two double bedrooms, bathroom, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, dormer bedroom. Externally having rear garden & garage. EPC - C.

£150,000 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

WOODSETTON

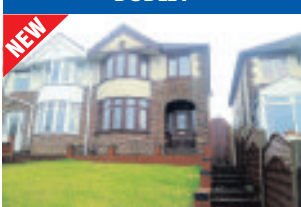


BENNETT AVENUE

An improved bay fronted semi detached property comprising to the ground floor entrance hall, lounge, dining room/fitted kitchen, landing, three bedrooms & bathroom. Externally having extensive rear garden & driveway parking. EPC Rating awaited

£140,000 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

DUDLEY



PENSNETT ROAD

IMPROVED BAY FRONTED SEMI DETACHED HAVING DOUBLE GARAGE TO REAR!!!! A gas centrally heated & double glazed bay fronted semi detached comprising entrance hall, rear kitchen/diner, lounge, first floor landing, three bedrooms & bathroom. To the outside having front & rear gardens & double garage to the rear. EPC rating awaited.

£140,000 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

TIPTON



ANCHOR DRIVE

A MODERN THREE STOREY FAMILY HOME HAVING CONSERVATORY. This is a gas central heated and double glazed end townhouse comprising driveway parking to the front, entrance hallway, cloakroom, fitted kitchen, lounge/dining room, conservatory, first floor landing, two bedrooms, bathroom/w.c, master bedroom with en-suite. Externally there is a rear garden. EPC - C

£130,000 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

DUDLEY



ASHENHURST ROAD

EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY HAVING GARAGE AND CONSERVATORY. We are pleased to market this gas central heated and double glazed extended semi detached property comprising to the ground floor entrance porch, entrance hallway, lounge, fitted dining kitchen, conservatory, extended utility room and shower room. To the first floor there are two bedrooms, separate wc and a bathroom. Externally there is a block paved driveway, garage and rear garden. EPC Rating & Grade C

£130,000 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

DUDLEY



NEW ROWLEY ROAD

IMPROVED AND WELL PRESENTED. This gas centrally heated & double glazed semi detached property comprising to the ground floor entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room and cloakroom/w.c. To the first floor there are three bedrooms and a family bathroom/w.c. Externally there is a driveway and enclosed garden to the rear. EPC rating is grade E

£130,000 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

DUDLEY



PROSPECT RD

MODERN TWO BEDROOM PROPERTY, EARLY VIEWING RECOMMENDED!! This gas centrally heated & double glazed semi detached property comprises entrance hallway, fitted kitchen, ground floor cloakroom, lounge having french doors to the rear garden, landing, two double bedrooms and bathroom to the first floor. Other features include it's close proximity to the town centre & driveway parking & rear garden. EPC Rating C

£114,950 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

TIPTON



ANITA AVENUE

This is a two bedroom semi-detached house comprising to the ground floor entrance hallway, fitted kitchen, rear lounge, to the first floor there is a landing with two bedrooms and a bathroom. Externally there is a rear garden and a driveway providing off road parking. EPC Rating Awaited.

£109,950 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

TIPTON



BATMANSHILL ROAD

A MODERN MUCH IMPROVED MID TOWNHOUSE HAVING CONSERVATORY. This is a gas central heated and double glazed mid townhouse comprising to the ground floor entrance hall, cloakroom/w.c, lounge, fitted kitchen/diner and conservatory. To the first floor there are two bedrooms and contemporary bathroom/w.c. Externally there is a garden to the rear along with parking. EPC Rating is Grade C

£109,950 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

HOLLY HALL



BRADFORD ROAD

IMPROVED & WELL PRESENTED PROPERTY HAVING GARAGE A gas centrally heated & double glazed property having a corner plot & comprises entrance hall, ground floor bathroom, lounge, refitted kitchen dining room, sun room, landing, three bedrooms. Externally having rear garden, garage & drive. EPC rating C

£104,950 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

BRIERLEY HILL



BROMLEY

NOTICE OF OFFER 34 Bromley, Brierley Hill, DY15 4PH We advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £66,000. Any persons wishing to increase on this offer should notify the agents of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts. 215 High Street, Dudley, DY1 1PB 01384 455 000

£69,950 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

DUDLEY



GREEN PARK ROAD

●EPC Rating C●Semi Detached
●Two Double Bedrooms
●Lounge●Fitted Kitchen●Double Glazing
●Drive●Beautifully Presented

£475 PM DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

SEDGLEY



STONEPINE PLACE

●Modern Apartment
●Two Bedrooms
●Open Plan Lounge
●Bathroom
●Allocated Parking

£475 P/M DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

UPPER GORNAL



NAYLORS GROVE

●EPC Rating C●Ground Floor Maisonette●Two Bedrooms●Fitted Kitchen●Lounge●Bathroom●Double Glazing●Central Heating●Rear Garden

£450 PM DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

DUDLEY



SLEDMORE ROAD

●Extended Semi Detached
●Three Bedrooms
●Enclosed Rear Garden
●Close To Town
●EPC - D

£575 P/M DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

Invitation

You're invited to have a **FREE** market valuation which includes:

- Advising you on what we believe to be the current value of your home in today's market
- Telling you about the demand we have for your type of property and the buyers we have waiting
- Discussing the moving process and the associated costs with you
- Explaining the benefits of selling your home with **YOUR MOVE**

Contact us for more details

DUDLEY



CROMWELL STREET

GREAT VALUE Modern Two Bedroom End Terrace Property in a Cul-De-Sac location. The property comprises Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Two Bedrooms and Family Bathroom. Garden to Rear and Driveway to Front. EPC AWAITED

£475 P/M DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

DUDLEY



THE BROADWAY

A Traditional Detached Family Residence Being Located Close To The Town Centre And Having Accommodation Briefly Comprising Of Through Lounge/Dining Room, Further Reception Room, Kitchen With Utility And Downstairs Toilet. Three

£650 P/M DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

DUDLEY



QUEENS CROSS

EPC - D: A lovely two bedroom property located in close proximity of Dudley town & comprises lounge, large kitchen diner, landing, two bedrooms and bathroom. There is parking provided to the rear of the property

£450 P/M DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

DUDLEY



GRENVILLE ROAD

●EPC - D●Three Bedroom Semi●Located On The Popular Russells Hall Development●Double Glazing●Central Heating●Drive●Available Late Mar

£550 PM DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

sales

lettings

mortgages

Dudley
215 High Street ☎ 01384 455000



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DT

KINGSWINFORD

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BRIERLEY HILL

84-86 High Street

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STOURBRIDGE

85 High Street

01384 395555

6 LOCAL OFFICES WORKING HARDER FOR BUYERS & SELLERS

DUDLEY

Priory Close



A SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED, and comparatively spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated & part uPVC double glazed detached family residence with many fine period features set in favoured cul-de-sac, and with tremendous potential. Accommodation includes; porch, imposing reception hall, understairs store, fitted cloakroom, dining room, 17'6" lounge (with patio doors), breakfast kitchen with a large walk-in pantry, vestibule and utility room beyond. To the first floor a spacious landing, bathroom, separate w.c., three double bedrooms, and a further 25'8" fourth bedroom/hobbies room/playroom. Lengthy garage, delightful sheltered garden backing on to school grounds. EPC Rating: T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888.

Offers in the region of £249,950

Brierley Hill



This most impressive, modern style, uPVC Double Glazed, gas centrally heated, FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED family home is "tucked away" in a quiet Cul-De-Sac, and simply must be viewed to fully appreciate the standard of accommodation provided. The considerably improved and extended property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, spacious Lounge, Dining Room, lovely re-fitted "bespoke" Kitchen with a fine range of units and utility area, Ground Floor Shower Room, FOUR EXCELLENT BEDROOMS, Re-fitted Bathroom with white suite, Driveway providing ample parking, and a low maintenance Rear Garden. EPC Rating C. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£194,950

SEDGLEY



Queens Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A Freehold, gas centrally heated, & uPVC double glazed detached most conveniently situated in a well regarded district within reasonable walking distance of Sedgley's Bull Ring, and all associated amenities. Accommodation includes; reception hall, cloak, fitted cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen, Three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage, secluded rear garden. EPC Rating T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £179,950

SEDGLEY



Turfs Street

A gas centrally heated (combi boiler) uPVC double glazed detached excellently situated within walking distance of Sedgley's Bullring. Accommodation comprises porch, hall, fitted cloakroom, upgraded kitchen, spacious lounge/dining room, large uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, 2 bedrooms (originally 3bedrooms), bathroom with white suite. EPC Rating T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £162,750

Wordsley



Woodstock Close

A SUBSTANTIALLY EXTENDED AND MUCH IMPROVED, MODERN SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME which enjoys an 'open' front outlook, upon the fringes of 'Forest Lawns/Ashwood Park', very close to woods, offering a BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED layout which includes a TWO-STORY EXTENSION, comprising: Entrance Porch, large attractive Lounge, luxury refitted full-width Kitchen with appliances and Dining Area extension off, THREE GOOD BEDROOMS (Bedroom One extended) and an attractive bathroom, GAS CENTRAL HEATING, uPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, DRIVEWAY, LONG CARPORT, LARGE DETACHED GARAGE and a landscaped rear garden with 'decking'. EPC Rating: - D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£159,950

Pensnett



Tansey Green Road

A SUCCESSFULLY ALTERED AND IMPROVED, TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME which is very well placed within this popular and sought after address, offering VERY SPACIOUS and ATTRACTIVELY RE-APPOINTED accommodation including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, uPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: Reception Hall, very spacious Lounge with bay window, separate Dining Room/Children's Playroom, enlarged now spacious & refitted Breakfast Kitchen, separate Utility Room, THREE GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS and refitted 'classic white' Bathroom. The property is set back beyond the BROAD PEBBLED DRIVEWAY and also enjoys a GOOD SIZED REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating: D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£144,950 - NO UPWARD CHAIN

Pensnett



Enjoying ATTRACTIVE REAR VIEWS onto fields from this very popular and established address, this EXTENDED AND ATTRACTIVELY IMPROVED TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED HOME is enhanced by a PLEASANT GARDEN ROOM and offers GENEROUSLY PROPORTIONED and WELL APPOINTED accommodation, comprising: reception hall, well proportioned lounge, refitted dining kitchen, GARDEN ROOM EXTENSION, ground floor W.C., TWO GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS, spacious re-appointed 'classic white' bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and uPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. With a LONG TARMAC DRIVEWAY and an ATTRACTIVE LOW MAINTENANCE REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating: D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£134,950 - NO UPWARD CHAIN

Tansey Green Road



UPPER GORNAL



Redwood Avenue

A conscientiously maintained & enhanced, Freehold, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) and uPVC double glazed semi detached with further potential in well regarded/convenient district. Accommodation includes; entrance porch, reception hall, dining room, sitting room, kitchen, pantry, Three bedrooms, bathroom. Large (19'5" x 9'0" garage. Sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating: T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £123,950

PENSNETT



Chelmar Drive

This modern style, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, three bedroom semi detached home is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, and may appeal to both first time buyers or young families alike. Accommodation briefly comprises: entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, guest w.c., three good bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, lawned gardens, and gated parking to rear. EPC Rating E. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384265265.

£99,950

PENSNETT



Swan Street

This traditional style, majority Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated THREE BEDROOM END TOWNHOUSE is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, and may represent an IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge with Bay, Dining Kitchen, Utility, Guest WC, THREE BEDROOMS, Bathroom with white suite and a good size Rear Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£94,950

Brierley Hill



Moor Street

This neatly presented, uPVC double glazed, two bedroom, modern mid townhouse has been CONSCIENTIOUSLY MAINTAINED by the current owners, and may represent an IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY. Accommodation briefly comprises: stylish lounge, RE-FITTED KITCHEN, two bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, allocated parking space, and rear garden. EPC Rating TBA. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£92,950

WOLVERHAMPTON



Wendover Road, Ettingshall Park

This beautifully presented, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, two bedroom Ground Floor flat which has been considerably improved by the current owners, and is well worthy of an internal inspection. The impressive property briefly comprises; entrance hall, stylish lounge, refitted kitchen, two good bedrooms, refitted bathroom with a white suite. Pleasant rear garden. EPC Rating: T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £74,950

Wall Heath



£10,000 REDUCTION

Millers Green Drive

Enjoying a very pleasant corner position upon this extremely sought after modern development, this VERY DISTINCTIVE AND MOST IMPRESSIVELY SPACIOUS DAVID RAYNE DETACHED FAMILY HOME is enhanced by a DETACHED DOUBLE GARAGE to the rear and offers BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED accommodation comprising: Entrance Porch, Reception Hall, Ground Floor WC, incredibly spacious Lounge with bay window, separate formal Dining Room, fitted Breakfast Kitchen with appliances, Utility Room, FOUR GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS (Master with EN-SUITE) House Bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and uPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. With pleasantly laid out fore garden, ATTRACTIVE ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN and REAR DRIVEWAY situated directly in front of the garage. EPC Rating D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£279,950

SEDGLEY



Dudley Road



An imposing exceptionally spacious FREEHOLD gas centrally heated double-fronted detached residence (with former doctors surgery to side) occupying a commanding corner plot within walking distance of open fields and so many amenities. Constructed to an exemplary standard in 1934 and with many fine period features there is TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL and the accommodation includes traditional reception hall (8'6" ceiling height), sitting room with bay, lounge with bay, dining room, kitchen, former surgery (effectively a fourth reception room) with 'wet room' and former waiting room/store beyond. Central landing four bedrooms, bathroom, separate toilet, traditional loft, grounds to front side and rear. EPC Rating F.VIEWING SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £255,000

LOWER GORNAL



Ash Grove



An absolutely outstanding & particularly SPACIOUS, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached bungalow excellently situated at head of quiet 'backwater' yet within walking distance of the village & all associated amenities. Significantly upgraded by present vendors in recent years, the superb, extremely flexible accommodation provides imposing 30ft. reception hall, 18ft lounge, well equipped breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units & a range, principal bedroom with shower room en suite, two further bedrooms (one presently utilised as a sitting room), reappointed/re-tiled shower room (former bathroom). Former 'garage' converted to a utility/workroom. Block paved foregarden, delightful secluded/landscaped rear garden with fine range of shrubs/plants, patio & decking. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £221,700

DUDLEY



NEW PRICE

Richborough Drive

Enviably situated, overlooking open space with tremendous spacious uPVC DOUBLE GLAZED CONSERVATORY a much enhanced gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached in favoured neighbourhood with superb accommodation including reception hall, store, upgraded fitted cloakroom, breakfast kitchen, transverse lounge, magnificent conservatory. Three bedrooms (principal bedroom with reappointed shower room en suite), upgraded bathroom with white suite, Gated drive with substantial brick garage, secluded rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

WAS £187,950, NOW £183,250

BEARWOOD**129 Poplar Road****0121 434 4345****HALESOWEN****21 Hagley Road****0121 550 3978****SEDGLEY****2A Dudley Street****01902 880888****6 LOCAL OFFICES WORKING HARDER FOR BUYERS & SELLERS**

Taylor's

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WOODSETTON**PRICE REDUCTION**

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A distinctive significantly EXTENDED gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed detached family home, enviably situated upon popular development with open aspect. A personal inspection is considered imperative for full appreciation of this distinctive property which comprises Entrance Hall, Reception hall, Fitted Cloakroom, further store, 22 ft through living/dining room with bay and patio doors through to a uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, extended/refitted 16ft 9" breakfast kitchen with a fine range of 'contemporary style' units and various integrated appliances patio doors to outside. Principle 19ft 4" through bedroom possibilities of sub division to create en suite shower room?, 3 further bedrooms, bathroom, garage delightful landscape rear garden, blocked paved drive. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

WAS £227,500, NOW £219,950

Tamar Drive**LOWER GORNAL****NEW PRICE****Straits Road**

This modern style, uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated detached family home would now ideally benefit from certain cosmetic modernisation/improvement yet offers excellent potential & is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. The surprisingly spacious property comprises entrance porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, utility, CONSERVATORY, guest w.c., three good bedrooms, bathroom, larger than average garage, driveway & gardens to three sides. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

WAS £179,950, NOW £169,950

Brierley Hill**Seagers Lane**

Presenting a rare opportunity, this double glazed (most units uPVC), gas centrally heated, THREE BEDROOMED DETACHED family home is situated in a well regarded location overlooking "the park" and is convenient for local amenities. The well maintained property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, through Lounge / Dining Room, Kitchen, three good Bedrooms, refitted Shower Room with pale green suite, Garage, Driveway and tiered rear Garden. EPC rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£159,995

WOODSETTON**Shenley Avenue**

A SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED, and particularly spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated & either uPVC or aluminium double glazed semi detached in favoured "backwater". Presented in exemplary order the superb accommodation includes; enlarged entrance porch, reception hall, fitted cloakroom, 25 ft through living room/dining room (possibilities of re-subdivision?), extended breakfast kitchen. THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, bathroom. Lengthy 21'4" garage, neat gardens. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £159,950

SEDGLEY**Brownswall Road**

Attractive, tremendously enhanced, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached in highly favoured district convenient for so many amenities/open fields/ country park, etc. Superb accommodation includes entrance porch, traditional reception hall, store, separate dining room, delightful lounge, enlarged/upgraded kitchen, three generous bedrooms, reappointed/enlarged bathroom with white traditionally style suite, lengthy 22'5" garage, secluded level rear garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £159,950

Kingswinford**LARGE GARDEN**

A DECEPTIVE & VERSATILE SEMI-DETACHED 'DORMER' PROPERTY well located within a convenient and desirable location, with a LARGE LEVEL PRIVATE REAR GARDEN, offering a SPACIOUS layout which includes GAS CENTRAL HEATING, uPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, comprising: Reception Hall, 19ft - Lounge, Refitted Kitchen, refitted ground floor Bathroom, Study, TWO/THREE BEDROOMS. Set beyond the long frontage including garden, FRONT/ SIDE DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a LARGE LEVEL AND PRIVATE REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating: E. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£158,950

DUDLEY**The Broadway**

An EXTENDED, spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated & primarily uPVC double glazed semi detached occupying WIDER THAN AVERAGE PLOT in popular neighbourhood. Accommodation comprises: enlarged porch, reception hall, dining room, lounge, extended 18'2" kitchen, and the former garage has been sub-divided to create a utility room & fitted shower room (access through hall). Three generous bedrooms, bathroom. Extensive parking (11' width from former garage gate to boundary at side). EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £149,950

Wordsley**SUBSTANTIALLY EXTENDED****Kinver Street**

A SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED AND BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED, TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME which is well placed within this popular and established address, now offering MOST IMPRESSIVELY SPACIOUS and ATTRACTIVELY APPOINTED accommodation, which is 'READY TO MOVE INTO' and comprising: reception hall, attractive lounge, superb extended and refitted dining kitchen with appliances, side porch, THREE GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS, re-appointed bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and uPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. Set back beyond the lawned fore garden, TARMAC FORECOURT and enjoying a good sized patio / lawned rear garden. EPC Rating: D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£139,950

SEDGLEY**Bath Street**

An EXTENDED, modernised & improved, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached conveniently situated within walking distance of so many amenities. The accommodation includes recessed porch, reception hall, store, dining room with bay, lounge with double opening doors out to the decking, extended refitted kitchen with an extensive range of units & many integrated appliances, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £137,950

SEDGLEY**Fir Tree Drive**

This beautifully presented, modern style, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, two bedroom semi detached home has been conscientiously maintained by the current owners and is well worthy of internal inspection. The impressive property briefly comprises: entrance hall, stylish lounge, refitted dining kitchen with a fine range of units, two good bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom with white suite, driveway and a pleasant rear garden enjoying a southerly aspect. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £126,950

COSELEY**Paul Street, Hurst Hill**

A PARTICULARLY SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed end "starter home" (originally designed to accommodate 3 bedrooms thus ensuring generous size of accommodation) presented in exemplary order throughout. Accommodation includes; reception hall, fitted cloakroom, upgraded breakfast kitchen with a fine range of "beech" effect units & various integrated appliances, transverse lounge. Substantial brick/ uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY. Principal bedroom with shower room en suite, further double bedroom, bathroom. Sheltered/landscaped rear garden, block paved foregarden (two car parking). EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £119,950

UPPER GORNAL**North Oval**

An EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, & uPVC double glazed end "starter home" upon wide corner plot with extensive gated block paved parking, and good distant views from the rear. Accommodation provides; reception hall, separate dining room, through living room, extended 'L' shape breakfast kitchen. Three bedrooms, recently reappointed bathroom with a white contemporary style suite. LARGE GARAGE, garden. EPC Rating: E SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £119,000

Wordsley**Nursery Lodge, Marshall Crescent**

Enjoying its OWN PRIVATE ENTRANCE and forming part of Shropshire Homes Heritage Buildings at Crystal Mead, this MOST IMPRESSIVE, INDIVIDUAL, PERIOD FIRST FLOOR APARTMENT offers INCREDIBLY SPACIOUS and BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED accommodation, comprising: private ground floor Entrance Hall, first floor Landing, very large open plan Lounge Diner, attractively appointed kitchen with integrated appliances, DOUBLE BEDROOM, classic white Bathroom; ELECTRIC HEATING and DOUBLE GLAZING. Enjoying ALLOCATED CAR PARKING together with SEPARATE VISITOR PARKING and being further enhanced by the remainder of the NHBC BUILDMARK WARRANTY. EPC Rating: E. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£114,950 - NO UPWARD CHAIN

SEDGLEY**Beech Close**

This traditional, uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated semi detached is situated in a quiet cul de sac and may be of particular interest to first time buyers or young families alike. Accommodation comprises entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen with fine range of units, three good bedrooms, shower, driveway & side/rear gardens. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £109,950

WOODCROSS**Kossuth Road.**

This traditional style, uPVC double glazed (vast majority of units), gas centrally heated, three bedroom property is available with no upward chain, and may represent an ideal first time buy. Accommodation briefly comprises entrance hall, lounge, extended 'L' shape dining kitchen, attached utility, three good bedrooms, bathroom, driveway and a lengthy rear garden. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £105,000

LOWER GORNAL**Central Drive**

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A conscientiously maintained, modernised & significantly improved, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed end "starter home" in established district with good distant views. Accommodation includes reception hall, lounge with bay, dining room, upgraded kitchen with various appliances, THREE BEDROOMS, reappointed/re-tiled bathroom with white suite, gardens. EPC Rating: D. BUYERS LEGAL FEES PAID TO A MAXIMUM OF £600.00 SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £104,950

Brierley Hill**NEW PRICE****Bank Street**

Having been subjected to a comprehensive scheme of redecoration/improvement, this Victorian style, deceptively spacious, majority double glazed, gas centrally heated, 3/4 bedroomed mid-terrace is conveniently situated for local amenities, and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Breakfast Room, Kitchen, two principal first floor Bedrooms, Bathroom with white suite, attic Bedroom 3, Office/Bedroom 4 and rear Garden. EPC Rating E. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£99,950

Brierley Hill**NEW PRICE****Columbus Avenue**

This MODERN STYLE, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, two bedroom first floor flat provides SURPRISINGLY SPACIOUS ACCOMMODATION, and is CONVENIENTLY SITUATED for local amenities. The property is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, and briefly comprises: secure communal entrance / stairs, private hall, open plan lounge / dining area / kitchen, two good bedrooms (master with en-suite), bathroom with white suite, communal grounds, and allocated parking. EPC Rating B. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£94,955

SEDGLEY**Bilston Street, Claremont Cottages**

An enviably situated intermediate bungalow with potential positioned within reasonable walking distance of Sedgley's Bull Ring and all associated amenities. Upvc double glazing. The accommodation comprises; reception hall, cloaks, kitchen, 'L' shape lounge/dining room (with patio doors), double bedroom, upgraded shower room with white suite. Neat rear garden, tarmacadammed parking. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £89,950

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DT

GORNAL Valley Road



Generous corner plot and no upward chain! This two bedroom semi detached property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, two good size bedrooms, front and rear gardens and off road parking.

£99,950

Tipton Horseley Road



Beautifully presented and deceptively spacious having two double bedrooms, two reception rooms and a detached garage to the rear this property really is a must view! Briefly comprising lounge, dining room, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom suite with a separate shower cubicle and a rear garden

£90,000

DUDLEY Parkhead Crescent



FOUR BEDROOMS! This property really does have the wow factor! Extended and improved to a very high standard and offering everything you could wish for in a family home. Briefly comprising lounge, office room, dining area, family room, kitchen, utility area, downstairs wc, family bathroom and a generous size garden.

£125,000 oieo

ROWLEY REGIS Royal Oak Road



Off road parking!! Bigger than it looks!! This three bedroom mid terraced really does need to be viewed to appreciate the size. Benefiting from newly fitted kitchen and bathroom also comprising two reception rooms, downstairs wc, front and rear gardens and off road parking to the rear.

£90,000 oieo

LOWER GORNAL Holloway Street



This four bedroom detached house is like a show home and has so much to offer that viewing is essential. Located on the David Wilson estate in Gornal it is within walking distance to the village and has excellent schools close by yet you can be in the countryside within a short drive. EPC = C

£240,000

DUDLEY Attingham Drive



A modern one bedroom freehold house with hallway, open plan lounge and kitchen with french door to balcony, mezzanine floor, shower room and allocated parking space. EPC = C

£89,950

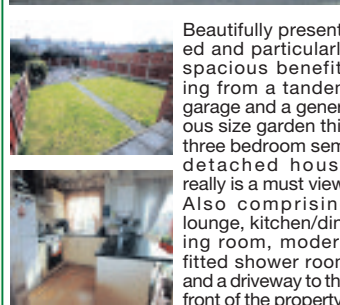
Tipton Edwards Fisher Drive



Corner plot location! Ample off road parking that could facilitate a caravan. Walking distance to Tipton train station. This property also benefits from an entrance hall, lounge, modern fitted kitchen/dining room, en-suite and family bathroom, rear garden. No upward chain!

£112,950

TIPTON Whitehouse Street



Beautifully presented and particularly spacious benefiting from a tandem garage and a generous size garden this three bedroom semi detached house really is a must view. Also comprising lounge, kitchen/dining room, modern fitted shower room and a driveway to the front of the property.

£131,950

DUDLEY Occupation Street



Recently refurbished two bedroom mid terraced house. Having two DOUBLE bedrooms and two reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen and a downstairs bathroom suite, rear garden and NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC = F

£79,950

DUDLEY Dudley Wood Avenue



A well presented deceptively spacious three bedroomed semi detached family home being situated in a cul de sac location with extensive driveway, good sized garage and accommodation comprising entrance vestibule, reception hall, L shaped lounge, conservatory, guest w.c. off, three bedrooms, re-fitted family bathroom suite, spacious rear garden with patio area. Viewing is highly recommended.

£159,950

Tipton Sannders Crescent



A beautifully presented three bedroom three storey semi detached. Briefly comprising downstairs wc, lounge, modern fitted kitchen, family bathroom, master bedroom having a dressing room and en suite. Rear garden, garage to the rear and off road parking. EPC = C

£129,950

Tipton Bagnalls Wharf



Located on the "Hodkins Place" Barratt Homes estate this immaculate two bedroom ground floor apartment briefly comprises of hallway, lounge with kitchen area, en-suite to master bedroom, allocated parking and a secure entry system. EPC = D

£79,950

Netherton Castleton Street



Off road parking to the rear!! This extended two bedroom semi detached house has lots of space to offer. Located in the heart of Netherton town centre with shops within walking distance along with public transport links and easy access to the motorway corridors. The property briefly comprises of lounge, dining room, cellar, dining kitchen with inter-grated cooker, washing machine, dishwasher and fridge, upstairs bathroom, two double bedrooms and a garden to the rear. EPC = D

£85,500

NETHERTON Cradley Road



Extended two bedroom semi detached! This property really is bigger than it looks. Offering no upward chain and briefly comprising lounge, second reception room, extended kitchen/breakfast room, shower room. Beautiful rear garden and a driveway to the front. EPC Ordered

£124,950

Dudley Linwood Road



A three bedroom mid terraced house with lounge, breakfast kitchen, family bathroom, laundry room, garden to the rear and driveway to the front

£84,950

Dudley Cromwell Drive



Recently modernised throughout and offering a modern kitchen and two reception rooms this three bedroom semi detached house has been priced to sell fast so you must view now. Close to the Oakham Road with great schools and shops in walking distance. EPC = C

£97,000

Tividale Elm Terrace



A two bedroom semi detached house which is immaculate throughout and briefly comprises of hallway, lounge, dining kitchen, upstairs shower room, driveway and a good sized garden to the rear

£110,000 o/o

DUDLEY Scotts Green Close



This detached three bedroom house is within walking distance to Russells Hall hospital and has great schools close by along with easy access to motorway links. A great family home so call now to arrange your viewing. EPC = D

£149,950

<p>SEDGLEY</p>  <p>REDUCED</p> <p>Gospel End Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * NO UPWARD CHAIN * An excellent size DETACHED house * Bought after Gospel End address * Open plan and recently fitted kitchen * Utility room, play room/billing room * FOUR bedrooms, two en-suites * Driveway parking for several cars * Part garage and private rear garden * This is an ideal family home <p>OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £259,990</p>	<p>COSELEY</p>  <p>NEW</p> <p>Nicholls Close</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Presenting a FOUR bedroom detached * Generous corner plot in cul-de-sac * Study, Lounge & Dining Room * Kitchen & Utility room * En-suite and main family bathroom * DOUBLE garage * Upstairs double glazed throughout * AN IDEAL FAMILY HOME * EPC Rating - B+ <p>OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £252,990</p>	<p>GORNAL WOOD</p>  <p>Hinley Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A Character detached cottage * Walking distance to Gornal Village * Open plan Living Room * Extended upstairs over garage * FOUR bedrooms * Further scope for improvement * Double garage * EPC Rating - F <p>OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £230,990</p>	<p>KINGSWINFORD</p>  <p>Swinfen Way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Four bed detached, village location * Delightful canal side setting * Lounge & Dining room * Breakfast kitchen * Upvc double glazed windows * Gas central heating * Garage, driveway parking * PART IS CONSIDERED * EPC Rating - E <p>OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £225,000</p>	<p>COSELEY</p>  <p>REDUCED</p> <p>Sunneford Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A DETACHED bungalow * Extended and upgraded throughout * Breakfast Kitchen & Large Conservatory * Lounge & Dining Room * One bedroom can be converted back into a two bedroom * Delightful & landscaped gardens * Secure parking through electronic gate * EPC Rating - D <p>OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £219,990</p>	<p>SEDGLEY</p>  <p>Edgware Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A most impressive detached residence. * In walking distance to Sedgley Village * Spacious accommodation * Two reception rooms * Breakfast kitchen * Four double bedrooms * No Upward Chain * Viewing essential * EPC Rating - D <p>OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £219,990</p>
<p>COSELEY</p>  <p>NEW</p> <p>Seagull Bay Drive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A SPACIOUS 3 bedroom detached * Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac location * Lounge, dining room, conservatory * Kitchen with integrated appliances * THREE bedrooms * en-suite * Central heating & double glazing * Block paved driveway * Landscaped low maintenance * EPC rating - D <p>OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £209,990</p>	<p>COSELEY</p>  <p>Bradleys Lane</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * An excellent size detached family house * Full of character and charm * Modern kitchen * Dining Room * Conservatory * Three bedrooms and bathroom * Good size rear garden * Upvc double glazed windows * Garage * EPC Rating - E <p>OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £205,990</p>	<p>COSELEY</p>  <p>Bedgewater Drive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A FOUR bedroom detached * Extended & enhanced * Dining & breakfast kitchen * Contemporary bathroom * Utility room & guest w.c. * Garage & off road parking * NO UPWARD CHAIN * EPC Rating - D <p>OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £204,990</p>	<p>SEDGLEY</p>  <p>Blanton Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A fine detached built 2012 * Starts in the heart of Sedgley Village * Re-furnished and re-designed * Offering a lot of potential * OPEN PLAN STYLE * Three double bedrooms and bathroom * Attractive (possible fourth bedroom) * Pretty rear garden * Driveway Parking * EPC Rating - D <p>OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £201,990</p>	<p>COSELEY</p>  <p>Clifton Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A traditional DETACHED home * Open plan lounge/dining room * Modern kitchen * Three good size bedrooms * An excellent size bathroom * Rear garden & garage * Off road parking for 2/3 cars * An ideal family home * EPC Rating - G <p>OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £174,990</p>	<p>DUDLEY</p>  <p>Adingham Drive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A Modern, 10 YEAR OLD * Set over three storeys * Contemporary & spacious * Lounge & dining kitchen * FOUR double bedrooms * Two En-suites & family bathroom * Allocated parking for 2/3 cars * Rear garden set over 2 tiers * EPC Rating - B <p>OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £169,990</p>
<p>LOWER GORNAL</p>  <p>REDUCED</p> <p>Winch Close</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A good size DETACHED property * In an excellent cul-de-sac location * An open plan lounge and dining kitchen * THREE bedrooms, en-suite shower room * Family bathroom * UPVC double glazed windows * Driveway with off road parking * A good size rear garden and garage * An ideal family home * EPC Rating - G <p>OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £166,990</p>	<p>COSELEY</p>  <p>Wivings Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Exceptional FOUR bed semi * Impressive, spacious accommodation * Thorough lounge/dining room * Modern kitchen * Beautifully fitted bathroom * Rear garden * Garage * Driveway * EPC Rating - C <p>OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £152,990</p>	<p>CRADLEY HEATH</p>  <p>Trejan Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A traditional bay fronted semi-detached * Lounge & dining kitchen * Three bedrooms * Excellent size rear garden * Upvc double glazed * Gas centrally heated * Off road parking * EPC Rating - D <p>OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £146,990</p>	<p>SEDGLEY</p>  <p>Clifton Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A PERIOD three storey semi-detached * Fully modernised and enhanced * Lounge and conservatory * Dining kitchen * Three double bedrooms * Double glazed 'slate' windows * A large & well maintained rear garden * Views over Cosley allotments * EPC Rating - E <p>OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £146,990</p>	<p>SEDGLEY</p>  <p>Crown Close</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A beautifully presented and property * Situated in walking distance to Sedgley * Garage & off road parking * An excellent size lounge * Recently fitted modern kitchen * Three bedrooms and bathroom * Rear garden * EPC Rating - D <p>OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £142,990</p>	<p>COSELEY</p>  <p>Roseland Avenue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A traditional style semi-detached * On the popular Bramford Estate * Lounge & Dining Room * Modern breakfast kitchen * Three bedrooms * Garage and drive * Rear garden * NO UPWARD CHAIN * EPC Rating - D <p>PRICE £139,990</p>
<p>COSELEY</p>  <p>Cox Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A 'Chapel' style semi-detached property * Upgraded & enhanced accommodation * EXTENDED dining kitchen * Garage conversion * Three bedrooms * Bathroom & Shower Room * Gas central heating * Rear garden & Driveway * EPC Rating - G <p>OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £134,990</p>	<p>UPPER GORNAL</p>  <p>NEW</p> <p>Stonewall Place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A THREE bedroom semi-detached * Quiet cul-de-sac location * Lounge & Dining Room * Modern Kitchen & Bathroom * Rear garden with feature decking * Garage & Driveway * AN IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY * EPC Rating - B+ <p>OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £132,990</p>	<p>COSELEY</p>  <p>Church Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A Traditional terrace property * Deceptively spacious * An open plan modern dining kitchen * Lounge & Sitting Room * Two good size bedrooms * Loft Room (being used as a bedroom) * Good size rear garden * Driveway with parking for 2 cars * EPC Rating - E <p>OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £130,990</p>	<p>DUDLEY</p>  <p>NEW</p> <p>Widdowson Drive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A beautifully presented mid terrace * Lounge & dining kitchen * Two double bedrooms * Modern bathroom * Off road parking for two vehicles * Private rear garden * An ideal first time buy * EPC Rating - C <p>PRICE £115,990</p>	<p>COSELEY</p>  <p>Elton Croft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A Modern semi-detached property * Quiet cul-de-sac location * Large corner plot * Lounge & Dining kitchen * Two bedrooms * Upvc double glazed * Good size rear garden * Off road parking for up to 3 cars * EPC Rating - D <p>OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £99,990</p>	<p>COSELEY</p>  <p>Brooklyne Grove</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A traditional semi-detached * Near to Cosley train station * Some cosmetic updating required * Lounge & dining room * Kitchen * Rear lobby * downstairs wc * THREE bedrooms * Rear garden * driveway * NO UPWARD CHAIN * EPC Rating - C <p>OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £99,990</p>
<p>GORNAL WOOD</p>  <p>Hinley Road</p> <p>A substantial plot of land FOR SALE with planning permission for a two bedroom residential dwelling. The land currently has an existing detached double garage and the land itself has been granted ready for development. (Guarantees available). Approximately 473m² (square meters)</p> <p>GUIDE PRICE £99,990</p>	<p>SEDGLEY MEWS, TIPTON</p>  <p>Thunderbolt Way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A modern and stylish top floor apartment * Light and airy lounge with dining area * Kitchen with integrated appliances * Useful carport * Spacious bedroom with built in wardrobe * Bathroom with white suite * Secure entry system * Allocated parking * EPC Rating - B <p>OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £97,990</p>	<p>TIPTON</p>  <p>NEW</p> <p>Thunderbolt Way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A Modern second floor apartment * Completed in 2008 * TWO bedrooms * Open plan lounge/dining room * Modern Kitchen & bathroom * One allocated parking space * Gas central heating * An ideal first time buy * EPC Rating - B <p>£95,990</p>	<p>UPPER GORNAL</p>  <p>The Arcade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A SPACIOUS maisonette * Excellent location for local amenities * TWO Bedrooms * Lounge, Kitchen & Dining Room * Upvc double glazed windows * Gas central heating * An ideal investment or first time buy * EPC Rating - E <p>OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £89,990</p>	<p>ETTINGSHALL PARK</p>  <p>REDUCED</p> <p>Doverdale Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A WELL presented top floor flat * Set over two floors - MAISONETTE * In a popular residential location * TWO bedrooms * Kitchen * Lounge * An ideal first time buy or investment * Viewing is highly recommended * EPC Rating - E <p>OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £89,000</p>	<p>TIPTON</p>  <p>NEW</p> <p>Thunderbolt Way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A Modern TOP floor apartment * TWO bedrooms * Open plan lounge and kitchen * Contemporary shower room * Two allocated parking spaces * LOFT storage space * PRICED TO SELL * An ideal first time buy or buy-to-let * EPC Rating - C <p>OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £85,000</p>

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PRICE: OFFERS INVITED



OLDNALL ROAD, KIDDERMINSTER

A superbly spacious and very well presented large individual detached house offering exceptional family accommodation. Splendid Lounge 31' x 16', Separate Dining Room, 26' Conservatory, Excellent Fitted Breakfast Kitchen, Games / Hobbies Room 21' x 16', Two Offices, Integral Double Garage, 26' Master Bedroom, Three Bathroom, Stunning 34' First Floor Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen, Can Provide Excellent Self Contained Live In Apartment, Private Garden with Heated Swimming Pool. Energy rating C.

PRICE: \$745,000



BANK HOUSE, POUND BANK, NR BEWDLEY

A delightful country home in delightful grounds, in total 1.75 acres. Lounge 28' x 22' max., Dining Room overlooking the Gardens, Sitting Room with Log Burner, 19' Breakfast Kitchen & Utility Room, 4/5 Bedrooms (2 en-suite), Master Bedroom Suite 21' x 20' overall, Heated Swimming Pool, Pool Room & Shower, Double Garage with Office above, Adjoining 2 acre Paddock available by separate negotiation. Energy Rating E.

PRICE: \$595,000



HILLTOP COTTAGE, NEEN SOLLARS, NR. CLEOBURY MORTIMER

Delightfully situated and well proportioned country cottage with woodland gardens of around 1 acre with trout stream. Spacious 20ft Breakfast Kitchen with Open Plan Family Room, Lounge with Feature Multi-fuel Burner, Formal Dining Room, Reception Hall with Guest Cloakroom, Utility Room, Excellent Master Bedroom Suite, En-suite Shower Room & Dressing Room, Three Further Double Bedrooms & Family Bathroom, No Upwards Chain. Option To Buy Additional 1.35 acre of Grassland. EPC D.

PRICE: \$449,950



HAYMIT, CLOWS TOP, BEWDLEY

An appealing detached country property with barn and stables set within approximately 8 acres of gardens and paddocks enjoying stunning views over the surrounding countryside. Reception Hall, Lounge/Dining Room 27ft x 16ft overall, 21ft Breakfast Kitchen, 4 Double Bedrooms, Large Bathroom, Utility & W.C., Integral Garage, Considerable further potential. Energy Rating E.

PRICE: \$450,000



MILLBROOK HOUSE, NEEN SOLLARS, CLEOBURY MORTIMER

Individual executive detached property offering spacious well planned accommodation in rural village with delightful outlook to rear. Four Double Bedrooms & Two Bathrooms, 21ft Master Bedroom overlooking Fields to Front, Splendid Large Reception Hall with Guest Cloakroom, Lounge with Brick Inglenook Fireplace, Open Plan Dining Room, Large Breakfast Kitchen with Fitted Appliances, Utility Room, Large L-Shaped Integral Garage, Delightful Position & Far Reaching Views, Energy Rating C.

PRICE: \$435,000



LANESIDE GARDENS, BEWDLEY

Individually designed spacious three storey family house, within this select development of only three properties 2405sqft Excellent 18' x 16' Lounge, Sitting Room, Study, 24' 6" Dining Kitchen & Utility, 4 Double Bedrooms, House Bathroom plus En-suite Shower, Cloakroom, Double Garage, Under-Floor Gas Fired Central Heating, Energy Rating C.

PRICE: \$399,000



HORNBEAM BARN, WORCESTER ROAD, CLOWS TOP

Superbly spacious attached barn conversion with magnificent far-reaching country views. 3Bedrooms, 2 En-suite Large Family Bathroom, Sitting Room, Could Easily Provide Fourth Bedroom, Breakfast Kitchen, Large Dining Hall, Lounge, Study, Utility Room, Guest Cloakroom, Lawned Garden, Parking for Several Cars.

PRICE: \$389,950



THE COURT HOUSE, WOLVERLEY VILLAGE

A striking Grade II listed village landmark building with splendid stone facade and gated gravel courtyard to front. Three Bedrooms and Bathroom, 21' Living Room, Separate Dining Room, Hall and Guest Cloakroom, Kitchen with fitted Appliances, Full Width Front Balcony, Apartment Style Living in Historic Setting.

PRICE: \$249,000



GAINSBOROUGH MEWS, KIDDERMINSTER

An attractive Georgian-style link detached property enjoying quiet cul-de-sac location close to open parkland. Reception Hall, Cloakroom, Through Lounge, Conservatory, Kitchen, Separate Utility Area, Dining Room/3 Bedroom, Two Double Bedrooms, En-suite Shower Room and House Bathroom, DG & GCH, No Upward Chain.

PRICE: \$167,500



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- CROSS LANE
- £625 pcm*
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- HULLAND PLACE
- £550 pcm*
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GORNAL



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PENSNETT



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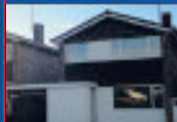
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Mercedes - It's a class act

By Andy Enright

How can it be the car Mercedes-Benz calls its best-selling model has, for so long, felt a bit of an underachiever?

The C-Class ought to have been all the company knows about luxury saloons distilled into a smaller form, but for many years it was instead a car which was short on quality and long on price tag.

The 2007 model repaired much of its reputation and the subsequent 2011 facelift brought even more features and better efficiency, but in this country, the C-Class always lagged a distant third in the compact executive sales charts.

Much has changed in the interim though. The introduction of a smaller four-door saloon, the CLA, has allowed the C-Class to become a bit bigger and a good deal more luxurious. The lat-

est car is a fresh design from the ground up and it shows.

The diesel engines include a 2.1-litre C220 BlueTEC unit good for 170PS, plus you can talk to your dealer about feebler C200 BlueTEC and pokier C250 BlueTEC offerings. Petrol-wise, there's a 184PS C200 unit.

The C300 BlueTEC HYBRID combines a four-cylinder 204PS diesel engine with a compact 27PS electric motor and looks interesting, as does the prospect of a plug-in hybrid model. In the here and now, there's a choice of two six-speed manual transmissions or an improved version of the 7G-TRONIC automatic gearbox. The electromechanical Direct Steer system is also fitted as standard.

Looking at the exterior of this C-Class, you'd be forgiven for thinking this was the most conservative of styling directions. It's tidily executed, with hints of the latest S-Class in its detailing. The long bonnet, a passenger car-



partment set well back and short overhangs define the C-Class's classic proportions. Large wheels emphasise the rear and communicate a stylishly sporty character.

In automatic vehicles, a large one-piece centre console panel performs an elegant sweep from the centre air vents to the armrest. On vehicles with manual transmission, the centre console is slightly steeper and features two separate trim elements in order to create ample space for ergonomic operation of the shift lever.

Prices for the C200 petrol start at around £27,000, while for a C200 BlueTEC diesel, you'll pay from around £29,500. To gain an insight

into quite how deep the thought process behind the new C-Class is, consider this. The air conditioning system talks to the car's satellite navigation system. When you enter a tunnel, rather than start sucking diesel fumes into the cabin from that labouring art, the car knows it's entering a tunnel and automatically switches the air conditioning to recirculate, bringing in fresh air only when you've emerged again.

That's smart. As indeed is the Collision Prevention Assist Plus system. When a danger of collision persists and the driver fails to respond, the system is able to carry out autonomous braking at speeds of up to 125mph, thereby

reducing the severity of collisions with slower or stopping vehicles. The system also brakes in response to stationary vehicles at a speed of up to 31mph, and is able to prevent rear-end collisions at speeds of up to 25mph.

It doesn't take long to see how Mercedes has forged ahead with efficiency. Where the last C220 diesel emitted 117g/km of carbon dioxide, the latest model trims that down to just 103g/km, with fuel economy improving from 64.2mpg to 70.6mpg. Even the entry-level petrol model, the C180, gets numbers that not so long ago would have been very respectable indeed for a diesel car in this sector:



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New sporty hot hatch is following in footsteps of a true great

By Bob Hickman

I despair at getting older, but one of the advantages of being of a more mature age is we are able to remember things which happened quite a few years ago, and one such memory will remain with me until my dotage – the joy of driving a Peugeot 205 GTi 1.9-litre around the Donnington Park motor racing circuit in the early 80s.

It was without doubt the ubiquitous hot hatch, the vehicle which set the benchmark all others had to follow.

Sadly, with insurance costs and exorbitant premiums, it died a death.

Thank goodness Peugeot has always hankered after bringing back the hot hatch, and with the 208 GTi it has reincarnated the brilliant 205.

Whether it is as good remains to be seen and only time will tell, but certainly the new 208 GTi looks the business. It just shouts at you it is exactly what it says on the box.

It is powered by a turbo-charged 1.6-litre engine which gives an impressive 200bhp. This projects the vehicle from 0-60 in less than seven seconds, and where possible, will give a top speed of 143mph.

All this from a relatively small, diminutive three-door hatchback which will take the children to school, do the shopping, but reward you so dramatically when you venture off onto those twisty 'B' roads.

The external look of the 208 GTi is an absolute delight with its curvaceous form, the earlier 205 was a boxier vehicle but the new 208 is stunning.

The 17in alloy wheels, red brake calipers and the chrome exhaust system all hint at what is available beneath the skin of this vehicle.

Inside, the vehicle says I am a sporty derivative. The red stitching on the sport seats hug you like a comfort blanket. It is a vehicle designed to not just look good but handle superbly, and give you a buzz of excitement from the performance.

Lower

The new 208 GTi is further distinguishable from its 208 sibling with its lower ride height, wider track, front and rear sporty sills and wing extensions and, of course, an abundance of extra chromium plate. The rear spoiler and the brake calipers really do emphasise the sporty appearance.

The 1.6-litre engine has been allied to a six-speed manual gearbox, this enables power to be delivered quickly and effortlessly whichever gear you choose. There is a degree of feedback through the steering, which is nice, but it is not overly sensitive.

The engineers have designed the suspension without giving a rough, harsh ride which rattle the fillings in your teeth, like so many manufacturers try to do, to enable a decent bit of handling.

That said, this is a sporty vehicle and you expect a sporty suspension.

Peugeot has managed to maintain a degree of comfort whilst also allowing the vehicle to be adequate in its performance at holding its lines through variable road surfaces.

The 208 GTi is only available as a three-door, and we all appreciate the difficulties of just two doors when getting in and out of the back, but I firmly believe the 208 GTi is for the driver and partner and possibly two small children. It is not about being a real family car.

There is reasonable headroom, but those like me at 6ft, would not be happy in the rear and not particularly comfortable either.

The standard kit is quite reasonable. It includes automatic dual-zone air conditioning; the entertainment is controlled with a multi-functional coloured touch screen which incorporates a DAB radio, USB and Bluetooth connectivity.

There is also automatic headlights and windscreen wipers. The driver has very little to do in that respect, except to find how to switch them off – automatic headlights are a bane of my life.

There are a number of airbags as you would expect in a 2014 car, and also ABS and anti-lock brakes, and a stability programme has been incorporated.

You can disengage it if you wish, with an experience of being a driver in a driver's car, and therefore not being driven by an electronic wizardry.

Peugeot claims a CO2 emission of 139 g/km which will not be overly expensive for the excise duty. It also suggests on the combined cycle 47.9mpg may be achievable, I managed 40.4mpg in my 300 miles test.

There can be little doubt the new 208GTi will win friends and be a rewarding vehicle to own. With a three-year and 60,000 miles warranty and being priced at £18,895 on the road, I have little doubt Peugeot has a winner on its hands.

Time will tell if it replicates the brilliant, ubiquitous 205GTi.



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Official Chevrolet fuel consumption figures for Cruze 1.7 VCDi: Urban 41.5, Extra-Urban 61.4, Combined 52.3, CO2 125 g/km; Spark 1.2 LTZ (mpg): Urban 42.8, Extra-Urban 68.9, Combined 56.5, CO2 118 g/km; Trax range: Urban: 34.4-52.3, Extra Urban: 51.3-70.6, Combined - 43.4-62.7. CO2 Emissions 120-153g/km. Official EU-Regulated Test Data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style.

Pictures for illustration purposes only. Models shown are a Chevrolet Cruze LS Hatchback and Estate, featuring metallic paint at an extra cost of £470 and Chevrolet Spark 1.2 LT and a Chevrolet Trax 1.6 LS which feature metallic paint at an extra cost of £425. *Savings shown against manufacturers list price whilst stocks last. Savings based on a (trim and engine) Model Year 14 Spark and Model Year 14 Trax. *Savings shown against manufacturers list price whilst stocks last. Savings available on other Chevrolet models. Valid for retail registrations only. Offers available until 31st March 2014 while stocks last. 0% APR Representative. Finance subject to status, terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Finance supplied by either Santander Consumer (UK) plc, WH 1258 or GMAC PFI BUK 6686. Cardiff, CYS 77C. Prices correct at time of print. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received. Offers may not apply to all Dealer stock.



Celebrating awards success

Motability customers in and around Dudley can be sure of receiving outstanding customer service from local dealer Dudley Motor Company as it celebrates winning a regional award for its work with the car scheme.

The accolade is part of a new programme of awards to reward Motability dealerships which provide outstanding customer service in their area.

The new Dealer Awards programme is designed to ensure all Motability customers receive exemplary customer service across the dealer network.

The awards are judged on how a dealer delivers the scheme to customers, which is assessed by customer feedback and reviews of their Motability performance.

All winners of the quarterly awards are automatically entered into the new national, annual awards which were held for the first time in January 2014.

Peter Wilson, general manager – dealer relations at Motability Operations, explains: "As the 'shop-front' of the Motability scheme, and in many cases the first contact point for our customers, the focus of these awards is to thank our dealer partners for providing an ongoing positive customer service experience."

"Our customers continually rate the service they receive at the dealership highly but there's always room for improvement and opportunities to learn from those who are doing it really well, like Dudley Motor Company. Many congratulations to them on their award win".

Celebrating the Motability Dealer Award win, Tony Lister from Dudley Motor Company, said: "We are pleased and proud to win this Motability Dealer Award."

"Motability is renowned for its high standards and Dudley Motor Company is thrilled to be recognised for our dedication to working in partnership with Motability."

Anyone who receives the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance, the Enhanced Rate of the Mobility Component of Personal Independence Payment or the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement can exchange the weekly payment to lease a new car through Motability. Insurance, servicing, RAC breakdown assistance and replacement tyres are included in the cost of the lease.

For more information about the Motability scheme contact Tony Lister on 01384 454100 or visit the website dudleymotorco.co.uk

Big savings on Fiat models

Fiat customers are being offered the opportunity to say 'No' to a deposit and 'No' to the first three monthly PCP repayments, so all they have to do is sign and drive off in a new Panda or Punto complete with its new '14' registration number.

Until March 24, Fiat is introducing a new customer saving and three-month PCP repayment holiday which results in an extra £500 saving to buyers of a new Pandas and Puntos.

With the Fiat Panda 1.2 Pop, for example, this initiative is in addition to the £1,450 savings already on offer, resulting in a total saving to the customer of £1,950. The remaining 44 repayments would be just £107.26 (representative

3.8 per cent APR) with an optional final repayment £3,062 due in March 2018.

The Fiat Punto 1.2 Pop now offers total savings amounting to £2,455 with monthly repayments of just £129.33 (representative 4.2 per cent APR) plus an optional final repayment.

Alternatively, customers also have the option of foregoing the deposit contribution and repayment holiday and instead using the £500 Fiat contribution towards their monthly repayments, resulting in a deposit of just £98 and 47 repayments of £98 for the Fiat Panda 1.2 Pop (plus optional final repayment) or a £118 deposit and 47 monthly repayments of £118 for the Fiat Punto 1.2 Pop (plus optional final repayment).

The Fiat 'Say No' sales event is open to all retail customers subject to certain terms and conditions. The offer

isn't limited to the examples given – other versions of the Panda and Punto are available as part of the initiative.

Kate McLaren, senior brand manager Fiat UK, said: "We believe being able to put a brand new fully-warranted Fiat Panda or Punto on the driveway, without having to stump up a deposit and with very affordable monthly repayments, offers customers huge peace of mind at a time when household budgets are stretched."

The five-door Fiat Panda is the second-best selling car in its segment in Europe, behind the Fiat 500, and is a practical, efficient and stylish city car.

The Punto offers even more space and comfort, as well as the option of a sporty three-door hatchback, while retaining the efficiency and affordable stylishness which Fiat is synonymous with.



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DY3 2RA
01384 259555

WWW.SUMMITGARAGE.CO.UK

RANGE FROM
£8,399⁺⁺

5 FLEXIBLE
WARRANTY
UP TO 5 YEARS*



f t YouTube

*Model shown is an MG3 35tyle in White On The Tiles with no optional extras at £9,999 OTR. **On the road price of £8,399 applies to the MG3 35tyle with no optional extras. On the road (OTR) prices include VAT where applicable, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and 12 months' Road Fund Licence. Costs exclude optional metallic paint, accessories and graphics packages. *Flexible Warranty: A 3yr/60,000 mile warranty is standard on all new MG3 models. Flexible Warranty options are available only at time of vehicle purchase at an additional cost. Packages include the following: options: 4yrs or 60,000 miles, 4yrs or 80,000 miles, 4yrs or 100,000 miles, 5yrs or 60,000 miles, 5yrs or 80,000 miles, 5yrs or 100,000 miles. Fuel consumption: figures shown are based on official EU test figures and are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results. Please see MG.CO.UK or ask your local dealer. Fuel Consumption MPG (l/100km) for MG3 range: Urban 37.7 (7.5), Extra Urban 57.6 (4.9), Combined 48.7 (5.8). CO₂ Emissions 136 g/km.

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1 Family

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for SATS and 11+.

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learning difficulties, general

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Will be CRB checked.

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SCOOTER

Excellent condition.

4 wheels.

Folds into boot.

Can deliver free if local.

£295.

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Scoters, powerchairs, stairlifts,

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MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350
can deliver, servicing available.
Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384
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end bathroom, warm air

heating, shower, towed with

family car, full and porch

awnings, good condition.

£2,500 ono.

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extras. £7,695 ono.

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very good condition/running order,

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with decking and small shed.

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Only 3 caravans on farm.

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Friendly, Reliable & Trustworthy.
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Lawns cut, Borders, Garden clearances
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LOW COST KITCHENS
HIGH QUALITY 18mm CABINETS AS STANDARD
SOFT CLOSE HINGES FREE OF CHARGE
KITCHENS FROM £499 - NEVER BEATEN ON PRICE
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Boiler Servicing inc Free Landlords Certificate.
Power Flushing, Boiler/ System Repairs
£200 OFF/Trade in old boiler
Installed in March. T&C apply
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Plumbing, Heating, Gaswork.
Gas Safe Registered.
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All general plumbing work undertaken. No job too small! Reliable and experienced plumber, free quotes
Call Dave 01384 823863 - 07854 338356

G M PLUMBING SERVICES Complete Bathrooms, Kitchens, Taps Showers, Blockages 07976 012458

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Decorating, Gardening, Woodwork, Locks, Windows and Doors Fitted & Replaced. Gas Safe.
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NATIONWIDE, INSURED, FREE QUOTES
Single Items to Full Removals.
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We take the stress away
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All areas covered
Immediate delivery
Competitive prices
Fast and Reliable service
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Mini, midi and large skips
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All sizes
Same day service
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07904 915016

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RE-UPHOLSTERY SPECIALISTS. Your suite / chair re-upholstered / repaired as new. Free quotes. Est 40 years. Call 01902 404698.

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service

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07850 330251

TV, DVD OR BLUE RAY BROKEN DO NOT panic and do not worry call Sertronics on 01922 624412

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

GEN 1 YUKON MINI OSPREY night vision rifle scope, £275 ono. 07445 442832

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, inoculated and chipped.
Call Greyhound Trust 01922 412212 or www.rtgwolverhampton.co.uk

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JEFFRY'S DOG WALKING & sitting service. W-ton, fully insured & reg. Senior citizen rates. 07855 275537.

KIND HOMES WANTED
BOB 8mth old gorgeous labrador cross, black, lovely labrador temperament
BUDDIE Tr colour approx 1yr old chunky little terrier type dog
TODD 14mth, neutered brindle/white staffie boy
FRANKIE Young Springer Spaniel x boy
SHEP 3yr old very gentle black/white pretty collie lovely temperament.
PEGGY 7yr old black/white collie, has been pushed from pillow to post now looking for a loving forever home.
Call 01588 671610
www.dogsamaritanas.org.uk

OUR LOVELY KIA He is a neutered Male Cocker Spaniel, aged 12, looking for a permanent foster home where he is the only dog, he's a needy boy, loves company and likes short walks, ideal companion and great in the car. Sadly his owner has passed away and he is in kennels through no fault of his own. All vet fees will be covered by the rescue.
Are you the special the special person who can help this lovely boy and give him the forever home he deserves.
If you think you can help please call
01588 640932

£5 OFF GROOMING when booking in with our trainee groomer. Dirty Dogs Dog Wash 01384 262071.

6 Business & Farming

business opportunities

businesses for sale

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ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

GEN 1 YUKON MINI OSPREY night vision rifle scope, £275 ono. 07445 442832

pets corner

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ACCOUNTS, BOOK KEEPING, PAYROLL, VAT New start-ups welcome. Home Clover on: 01384 458714 or 07715 510749

commercial premises
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6,000 Sq Ft Yard
High St Tipton
1000 Sq Ft Unit Coseley
Offices also available.
Flexible terms
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UNITS TO LET IN WOLVERHAMPTON Suitable for many uses. From £40 pw.
No VAT
Telephone 07927 766799

6 Property

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on select site, all main services, excellent locations, close to all amenities.
From £75,000
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overseas property
NOTICE TO READERS Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

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Local investor pays 10k more.
Call Alex 07729 297901.

WE GUARANTEE TO BUY YOUR HOUSE IN 3 DAYS!
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Get 95-100% For Your House - FAST!
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ASA
Keeping advertising standards high

accommodation to let
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I will rent your property from you for 5 - 10 years. GUARANTEED RENT. I will also look after the maintenance of the property.
Interested... Call Arsh on 07967 016425

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NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

ASHMORE PARK two bed flat, CH, good condition, £110pw, 07854 080952.

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TIPTON TWO BED fully modernized flat. New decor, DG, GCH No DSS/Pets. £450 07855 847977.

TWO BED end terrace house, Bilston area, £480pcm. No DSS. Call Mark 07711 196180.

TWO BED MAISONETTE, near Dudley Tesco, full refurb, large garden, £455PCM. DSS considered with guarantor. 07956 230621.

1, 2 AND 3 BEDROOM Properties available in Wednesfield / Tipton. DSS accepted. Call: 07773 594640

WE'RE HERE TO MAKE ADVERTISING BETTER.
(Not to make better advertising. Sorry.)
Here at the Advertising Standards Authority, we judge ads on whether they're harmful, misleading, or offensive. Not on whether they're funny, clever or they look good. Which is just as well, really.
Telephone 020 7492 2222 www.asa.org.uk

Classified Ads

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All Scrap Cars & Vans Wanted
Anything Considered
Free Collection
Scrap It Legally COD
Given Instant Payment.
Call Chris 7 Days A Week
01902 493110 0121 525813

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR
ALL SCRAP CARS,
VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: **01902 408176**
1000's of parts
available at all times.
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

A BETTER PRICE
for scrap or damaged cars and
commercial. Spares for sale.
NINE LOCKS VEHICLE
DISMANTLERS LTD
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DYS 3UZ.

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WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best
Prices Paid ELY Registered
Spares Always Available
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0400. Evening 07813 184611
Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

ALL CARS AND VANS: 01 - 08 reg.
Personal Service. Cash paid today.
Buyer will visit. Call 07970 705635.
CROWN MOTORS Guarantee best
cash price for unwanted cars/vans.
Call 01902 495758 / 07903 549849.

spares & accessories

engines

HEADGASKETS from £225, timing
belts from £60. Clutches. All
engines repaired / reconditioned.
EC Engines 01384 484866.

mobile mechanics

MOBILE MECHANICS Service &
repairs. Headgaskets, clutches and
cambelts. 07747 848469.

clutches / brakes / gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE
30 yrs experience

ALL AREAS COVERED

Call Bob

01384 251328 or 07972 169554 anytime

For Example:
Citroen C1, C2, C3
Hyundai 110
Toyota Yaris
Clio's & Micras
Ring for quotes on others!

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

ARTHUR WILLIAM BENNETT (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 362 Birchfield Lane Oldbury West Midlands B69 1AE, who died on 24/11/2013, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 30/05/2014, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

GEORGE GREEN LLP
106 High Street Cradley Heath
West Midlands B64 5HW
T405197

LICENSING ACT 2003
Notice of application for a
Premises License

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT I MR SUKHDEV BERIK have applied to Dudley Council for a new premises license in respect of the premises known as Unit 115B, Lower Mall, Phase 2, Merryhill Shopping Centre, Dudley DY5 1SH as follows:
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From 07:00 to 00:00 Monday To Sunday.

Any person wishing to make representation in respect of the above activities may do so by writing to The Licensing Officer, Legal & Democratic Services, 5 Ednam Road, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 1HL between 17th March 2014 and 14th April 2014. The application can be inspected contacting the licensing Section between the hours of 9:00am and 4:30pm (Monday to Friday except public holidays). An online summary of the application can be viewed on www.dudley.gov.uk It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5000.

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Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 132 St. Peters Road Netherton Dudley West Midlands DY2 9HW, who died on 30/12/2013, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 30/05/2014, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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JANE attractive, feminine open-minded mature female genuinely looking for adult fun. No time wasters please. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409715

JILL 50, attractive, 5ft, blonde, own home, no ties, likes films, reading, travel, music, good social circle, seeking that someone special. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410105

ATTRACTION professional lady, 56, enjoys country walks, meals out, seeks professional gent with GSOH to enjoy the good things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409895

ELAINE attractive 39yr old blonde single mum seeking respectful male/female with similar interests for adult friendship, hopefully leading to love. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410117

DONNA 27yrs blue eyed blonde with cute dimpled smile, loves socialising but looking for that special someone with GSOH to cuddle up with, enjoy fun/good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409733

73YR old Hereford lady, GSOH, young at heart, many interests, seeks caring, genuine gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410331

NICKY bubbly curvy fun blonde, varied interests, enjoys meals out, holidays, seeking N/S male with GSOH for possible ltr. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410479

KAREN 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, W/LTM for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easy going guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410461

LIZ 5ft 7ins, attractive, outgoing, likes walks, dogs, cooking, seeks male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410395

ZOE 25 long haired sensual female, very naughty, broadminded and open looking for similar fun guy for uncomplicated adult meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409719

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KEV 53, Stoke, seeking female for fun, romance, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410997

SHROPSHIRE male, 49yrs, caring, looking for single lady for relationship 40/50. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 433566

GOOD looking tanned guy blue eyes good physique 45, looking for an attractive likeminded slim female 19-40. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4320125

66YR old male enjoys country walks, pubs, and cycling seeks similar minded lady to share life, 60ish. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4330594



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ATTRACTION tall, dark, professional male, broadminded, adventurous, clean, discreet, GSOH, easy going, good company, looking for lady for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411019

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Two runs separate Swindon from win

Swindon (104-5) lost to Hagley (106-5) with an over remaining

SKIPPER Larry McDonnell (29) was called on early as Swindon lost a wicket in the first over and partnered by Nathan Perry (36) accelerated the run-rate from a slow start.

Both were retired but returned to push on the Swindon total over the ton as Swindon batters who couldn't get on got out to bring back Perry and McDonnell.

James Perks making his debut for Hagley bowled his first two overs for only 10 but was mauled in his last for 21, Perry taking a particular fancy. Facing an average total Hagley also lost a wicket in their first over, that of hard hitting Joe Lennon.

James Perks was now at the crease with Paul Morgan and helped add 50 until Perks was out. Paul Morgan retired and a rapid rattle of wickets reduced Hagley to 77-5 with 4 overs to go.

Enville B (47 all out) lost to Belbroughton (48-1) in 6.3 overs.

After the win on their previous outing Enville B this was something of a disaster. Dan Such was the pick of the Enville bowlers with 1-10 in his three overs.

Old Hales Seconds are beaten

Old Patesians 2nds 42

Old Hales 2nds 18

A weakened Old Hales second team went down to a strong Old Patesians side 42-18 despite the Old Hales scumming continually destroying the Old Patesians pack.

Old Halesonians 3rds 53

Ledbury 2nds 14

Old Hales Thirds took on Ledbury 2nds in this rearranged league fixture. Old Hales put on a fine display of expansive rugby for a good crowd of spectators.

Scores came from Lee Davis, Elliot Hickman, Gaz Price, Ben Foster, Harry Lewis, Gary Jones, Harry Young and Luke Irwin.

Old Hales ran in six quality tries in the second half of the game.

Hales lose out in top of the table clash

Old Hales 13 Sutton 15

ANOTHER fine Saturday afternoon at Wassell Grove and a top of the table clash with two teams playing for a play-off place.

From the kick-off both teams went at it hammer and tongue at each other, both forwards and backs. Hales were not in the mood to give any ground, shown by the presence of particularly Mark Evans, Pete Fitzgerald, Rich Taylor and Tom Jordan.

On 25 minutes, Hales hooker, Pete Fitzgerald was sin-binned for a high tackle. Five minutes later a penalty to Sutton put them in front. Hales then showed ex-

Rugby

cellent phases of play, scrum half, Greg Smith fed skipper Rich Taylor on the burst. He passed to the supporting Andy Robinson to score.

The kick was missed but Hales led 5-3. The home side were then penalised again with prop Cliff Tomkinson receiving a yellow card.

Down to 14 men, Hales were on the defensive but as solid as the tackling was Sutton worked well for a try on 40 minutes,

converted to lead 8-10.

On 55 minutes, Sutton again came back with some fine open play for a try 8-15.

The game was really intense now and Hales fought back, camped in the Sutton half. Then a break from the backs fed to winger Luke Smith.

He kicked over the defending players, chased but was tripped in the process.

The referee blew his whistle for a penalty but the ball continued to roll on with centre Carl Robinson collecting and scoring a certain try. But it was disallowed and a penalty awarded, much to the surprise of everyone,

including Sutton.

The penalty was taken, but the resulting line out did not reap the benefits deserved for the home side. Hales continued to apply pressure and on 70 minutes great forward play resulted in prop Tom Dempsey driving over for a try wide out.

The conversion was missed which gave Sutton a lead with 3 minutes to go. This was not enough time and Hales failed to come back despite late pressure, Sutton were victorious and now sit second in the league ahead of Nuneaton and Old Halesonians. This Saturday Hales travel to Broad

YELTZ OPEN UP GAP AT TOP OF LEAGUE

Halesowen Town 3 Newcastle Town 2

HALESOWEN opened up a five point gap at the top of the Evo-Stik League Division One South, but endured an edgy ending after earlier establishing a comfortable three goal lead.

In a flat opening period, Lyseden Christie's ninth minute header was turned over the bar by Newcastle goalkeeper Adam Alcock and Ben Haseley fired just high on the turn three minutes later.

For the visitors, Tim Sanders curled over the bar from the edge of the penalty area after 19 minutes.

Clearance

Haseley beat Alcock from close range to put Halesowen 1-0 ahead in the 40th minute from Nigel Penney's throw-in after Jonathon Sheldon had earlier misused his clearance. Asa Charlton then scooped over the bar with a stereotypical defender's finish after surging into the Newcastle box in the 42nd minute.

Christie soon stepped up to slam a 45th minute penalty into the bottom corner and double the home lead after being brought down by Leon Ashman. At the start of the second period Thomas Urwin's dipping shot landed just over the home crossbar.

Home victory looked assured when Yeltz captain Joe Hull towered high to power home a far post header from Neil MacKenzie's precise 50th minute

Football

cross and put Halesowen three goals to the good.

But Newcastle's Sanders had other ideas and made it an unlikely nervy ending for Halesowen by pulling back two goals. Sanders raced forward to beat a static home defence and lobbed the ball over goalkeeper Matt Sargeant before carrying on to round Sargeant and bundle the ball home on the goal-line after 56 minutes.

Minutes later, MacKenzie curled a 20 yard free-kick past the visiting post and Haseley cut inside full-back James Askey to be free on goal but Alcock made a fine blocking save.

A 67th minute shot from Urwin then bounced away from Sargeant but his defence hacked clear.

Sanders reduced the arrears further at 3-2 in the 70th minute by rifling into the bottom corner following a neat interchange of passes. In the dying, anxious minutes substitute Joshua Gordon went close to snatching a point for Newcastle when he struck inches wide in the 73rd minute and Castle went even closer.

Magic Mike makes his mark for Tividale



Michael "Magic" Wardle bags the winner for a joyful Tividale side who are now top of the league

Tividale FC 1 Quorn FC 0

TIVIDALE went top of the Midland Football Alliance table when they beat and leapfrogged previous leaders Quorn in a pulsating game at The Beeches.

With this being Tividale's 4th game in eight days and Quorn well aware of the home side's attacking capabilities. The game started in cautious fashion and apart from a couple of long range efforts. The first

30 minutes past by without incident.

The second half was only two minutes old when Tividale broke the deadlock. A cross by Karl Edwards evaded everyone and Nathan Waite did well to retrieve it at the edge of the box, he then skipped past his marker and fired in a shot that keeper Pearson could only parry straight into the path of Michael "Magic" Wardle and his first time shot found the back of the net.

Tividale could have added a second on the hour when great pressing from Edwards caused an error in the Quorn defence.

Edwards found Waite but his lob over Pearson went agonisingly wide. The last 15 minutes saw Quorn on the front foot and they put the home defence under severe pressure at times but were never really able to cause Tividale keeper Charles Price any problems.

Spot kick redeems as Sports equalise

Wednesfield 1

Dudley Sports 1

WEDNESFIELD took a 19th minute lead through Josh Jones and held onto it until late into the second half but they had to settle for a West Midlands League Premier Division point.

Sports defender James Padden back-headed a Stevie Douglass pass into the path of Jones who cleverly lofted the ball over Sports keeper Dominic Richards the ball going in off the far post. Just before half time the visitors in a rare attack almost snatched an equaliser when Justin Nixon's shot from Craig Tibbetts struck Kieron Payne who was standing on the goal line.

The homeside shaped up better in the second half as skipper Danny Carter side-footed substitute Scott Embrey's free kick the wrong side of the post.

This was followed by Embrey playing a neat pass to Tom Essex to fire over from 20 yards in the 70th minute. In a rare attack Dudley equalised in the 70th minute when Wednesfield's defender Ashley Bradley was adjudged to have fouled Tibbetts in the penalty area. Nixon stepped up to coolly roll the ball in.

Lockmen get lamped by Lye side

Lye Town 7 Willenhall 0

A RUTHLESS Lye Town demolished injury-ravaged Willenhall with a first-half seven-goal show, but the Lockmen fought valiantly to keep it level after the break.

On six minutes Matt Johnson's corner was flicked home by an unmarked Stephen Lodge and two minutes later an unmarked Ben Jevons headed home.

James Spray converted a penalty on 16 minutes. Jevons headed home unmarked on 22 minutes before Spray raced away on the right on 25 minutes and lobbed home.

It was six on the half-hour as the ball was diverted in by Spray.

Scott Gennard got the seventh on 40 minutes.

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SPORT

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Veltz open gap
Halesowen endure
edgy end to match
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Mike's magic
Tivs top the league
with a one goal win
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Saxons gear up to push their Luc

STOURBRIDGE Saxons go into this Saturday's encounter at Luctonians knowing they must leave their Herefordshire neighbours with nothing less than a bonus point win to maintain their National 2 North promotion challenge.

Lucs will be looking to avenge a nine-try rout suffered at Stourton Park back in November.

The following Saturday Mar 29 the Saxons contest a season-defining home fixture against fellow contenders Darlington Mowden Park, currently breathing down their necks just a point behind in third place.

They will be seeking revenge for their only away defeat of the season, a 38-8 reversal inflicted at Mowden Park's Northern Echo Arena, but will be without the services of influential flanker James Rodley. But Director of Rugby Neil Mitchell can now keep an eye on the weather forecast and select from an otherwise full squad. 'Luctonians will always present a significant physical challenge at home, a dry pitch would favour the superior firepower of the Saxons' threequarters. Last season the pack selection was simple - the biggest eight blokes in the squad - and there's no reason why it should be different this time.

Lead is taken from Khalsa

Cradley Town 1 Sporting Khalsa 1

AS games go, this was anything but a classic, on a bobbly pitch neither side could take significant control of the first half with chances restricted. The best chance of the half fell to Mark Habbershaw who went clear on goal but his shot was saved by the impressive Cradley keeper Richard Kennedy.

In the second half Khalsa started to get on top of the game with the opening goal through John Cordy in the 75th minute but 10 minutes later Khalsa switched off from a corner and Carl Martin got an equalizer for the home side. Khalsa responded with three great chances in the last five minutes of the game but the Cradley keeper made some important saves and denied Khalsa all three points. Khalsa's U-15s are in the County Cup.

Squad is not suffering fatigue insists Jackett

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett has rejected any fatigue factor being behind their failure to extend their winning run.

Saturday's surprise goalless draw against struggling Shrewsbury ended a club record-breaking nine straight wins but they remained top by a point after 10-man Brentford's 1-0 win at Leyton Orient.

Although they recorded their 19th clean sheet of the season, it was the first time Wolves - who need just two points from their final 11 games to secure a top-six place - had failed to score in 10 matches.

It was a lacklustre performance lacking

Football

the tempo of recent wins, but head coach Jackett insisted his players aren't tired after the third of nine games in 28 days before tomorrow's trip to Crawley.

"I don't think tiredness was a factor," said the boss. "I hope not and I don't think that was the case."

"We prepare the players very well and it's perhaps an easy excuse and not one I particularly want to offer."

"Although I'm not happy with a point," Stand-in captain Danny Batth, who skip-

pered the side in the absence of thigh-strain victim Sam Ricketts, maintained fatigue wasn't a factor.

"I don't think the players were tired - they were still sprinting back in the 90th minute," said the centre-back.

"It's all about the spirit and the togetherness we've got and I don't think there was any lack of effort."

Jackett admitted it was an extremely close call between Ethan Ebanks-Landell and Matt Doherty for Ricketts's right-back slot, after plumping for the former before the latter replaced him after 55 minutes.

"It was a close one because they've both done very well," he said.

"I didn't think one's above the other - they're both very good players."

"Ethan has played more recently than Matt, and at Notts County and Leyton Orient at home he did very well - he got two vital goals."

"Matt had an outstanding time going back to October. They had a period each and both have good futures. Early on, Ethan looked a spare man down the right and looked like he could score. Matt probably created our best chance."

Good run in a half marathon

DUDLEY Kingswinford Running Club took advantage of the favourable conditions to post some top class performances.

A group travelled the short distance north for the Stafford Half Marathon and came back with prizes and personal bests over the 13.1 miles course. Lorna Hulme backing up her Stafford 20 result with a finishing time of 1:29.44 for Second Senior Lady, Helen Tromans was not far behind in 1:32.12 for Third FV40, with both Lorna and Helen finishing in the top 10 in the ladies overall standings. Brian Preston finished in 1:33.39 for 197th place, Paul Richards was 258th in 1:34.32, Andy Litchfield finished in 1:40.17 in 385th, Dave Hickman was 686th in 1:47.26, Natalie Litchfield finished in 2:06.47 to take 1,470th and Debbie Richards was 1,813th in 2:20.29.

DK sent a male and female team to the Midlands Road Relay Championships at Sutton Park. The men's team of 12 who posted a total time of 4:28.10 for the overall distance of approximately 44 miles.

Holding their own in 33rd place.

Contract talks are put on hold

RICHARD STEARMAN'S future will remain in limbo until Wolves' promotion fate is decided after it emerged all contract talks with senior players have been put on hold.

The former Leicester defender has been in excellent form in recent weeks, helping Wolves to six consecutive clean sheets.

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FIGHTBACK GIVES GLASSBOYS A WIN

Corby 3 Stourbridge 4

A STUNNING fightback saw Gary Hackett's men overcome a 3-1 deficit to run out 4-3 winners and wrap up a fifth successive victory on the road.

The visitors got off to a terrific start at Steel Park, taking the lead in the third minute. Ben Billingham and Sean Geddes exchanged passes before the latter floated a shot past keeper Paul Walker and in off the far post.

The Glassboys threatened again after Luke Benbow was fouled just outside the box, but Billingham saw his low 20-yard free-kick safely held by Walker.

Corby got back on level terms after 18 minutes with Tom McGowan sending in a telling cross from the left for Aman Verma to turn a close range volley past Dean Coleman.

Slicing

The goal prompted a good spell from the hosts with Will Richards slicing an attempted clearance from a dangerous low right-wing centre from Kalern Thomas into his own side-netting before Paul Malone directed a free header wide from a Claudiu Hoban corner.

The Steelmen were now in the ascendancy although for all their neat inter-play Coleman was not over-worked.

Billingham cut in past Gareth Jelleyman before hitting a low shot that Walker saved.

Stourbridge fell behind when a mistake from Richards left his side exposed.

Football

Hoban's drilled shot rebounded off a post for Cleveland Taylor to score.

The visitors made a change at the break with Jordan Fitzpatrick replacing Ben Birch and Leon Broadhurst dropping back into the back four.

However, after a scrappy start to the second period, Corby doubled their advantage after 58 minutes when Greg Mills burst into the right-hand side of the box and was brought down by Broadhurst. Mills buried the spot-kick. Geddes floated a long, high straight free-kick into the Corby box; Walker failed to collect and following a short scramble, Chris Knight tucked the ball away.

Two minutes later the visitors restored parity after Geddes delivered a deep corner from the left and the ball dropped invitingly to Kayelden Brown who fired home through a crowd of players.

And in the 81st minute Stourbridge grabbed the winner. A searching pass from Geddes picked out Benbow who upended in the area. Geddes scored from the spot.

Karlsson gets off to a flyer at Monmore



Wolves legend Peter Karlsson, centre, celebrates his Banks's Olympique win with Tai Woffinden, right, and Peter Kildemand. The 44-year-old rolled back the years to beat World Champion Woffinden to top spot.

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